TEHRAN TIMES

Weekend Issue, Special Issue On Basij Inside

20 PAGES; PRICE 200 RIALS

VOL. XVIII; No. 192; THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21, 1996; AZAR 1, 1375; RAJAB 9, 1417

Nateq Nouri Arrives in Almaty

ALMATY — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri arrived here this morning for a two-day official visit.

Nateq Nouri is scheduled to hold talks with President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the prime minister and other high-ranking Kazakh officials.

The speaker is also to address a session of the Parliament. He will then proceed to Turkmenistan and India in continuation of his 10-day tour. (IRNA)

Arab League Slams U.S. Over Veto

CAIRO – The Arab League on Wednesday slammed a U.S. veto which blocked the re-election bid of UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, saying it will harm U.S. interests in the Arab world.

"We deplore this American position which will not serve American interests in the Arab world," league secretary general Esmat Abdel Meguid said, recalling that the 22-member pan-Arab organization had endorsed Boutros-Ghali's candidacy for a second term.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

U.S., Israel Main Enemies of Iranian Nation

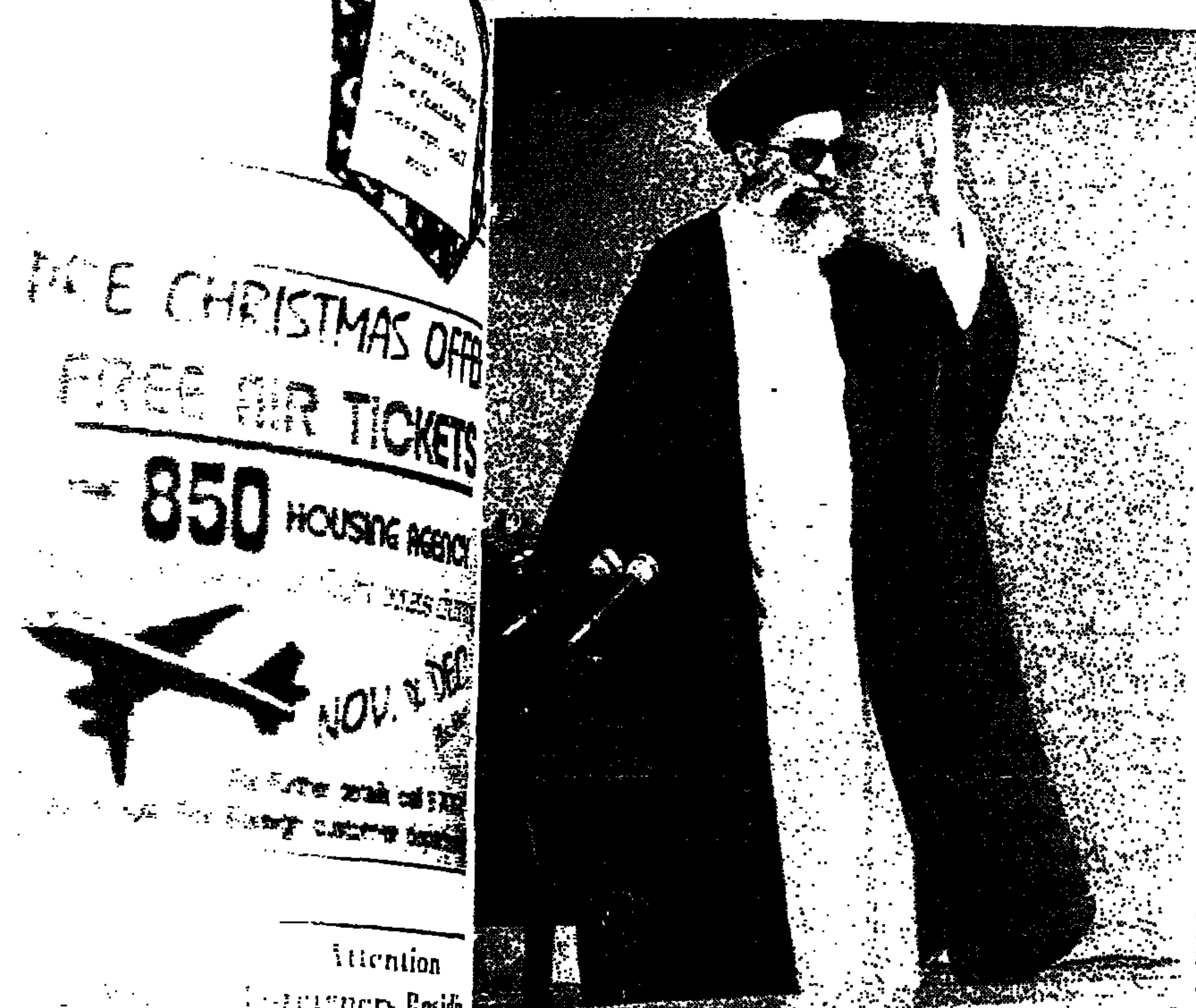


Photo: Mojtaba Takin

TEHRAN – The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei here on Wednesday described the U.S. and Israel as two notorious and wicked elements and as arch enemies of the Iranian nation.

Speaking to a large crowd of Basiji (volunteer forces) on the eve of the Basij Week, the Leader said the traitorous conspiracies of the enemies of Islam are doomed to fail thanks to the vigilance and determination of the nation and officials.

On establishment of Basij forces, the Leader appreciate the late Imam Khomeini's initiative to establish the Basij corps and added, "undoubtedly, forming the Basij is among the praiseworthy move based on Islam and logic which can serve as a model for other nations."

The Leader pointed out that the hostile propaganda of the world arrogance could not stop other nations from following the example set by the Islamic Revolution.

The Leader said insight, logical practice, precise assessment and scientific analysis are the features of Basij which have been evident since establishment of the Basij, and a country constantly subject to hostility and treasons of its enemies has no other alternative but to have Basij corps.

The Leader said the nature of the Islamic Republic is based on protecting national independence, preventing foreigners from interfering in the internal affairs of Iran, formulating its own independent policies and considering the hellish network of Zionism as its arch enemy.

The Leader said the U.S. and Israel are the two sides of the same coin and are two notorious elements, adding that in the course of eight years of Iraqi war on Iran, instigated by the U.S. and Israel, the big powers supported Iraq militarily, financially

(Contd on Pg.14)

London Conference Outlines Iran's Trade Capacities

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some 200 delegates in London at a confederation of British Industry Conference were provided Tuesday with a factual updated on the current economic situation in Iran by a series of deputy ministers.

Deputy Minister of Oil, Mohammad Hadi Nejad Hosseinian, explained Iran's position in the global oil market and elaborated on a string of upstream and downstream projects offered to international companies, IRNA reported from London.

Firms which enter the region and especially Iran now, he stressed will find long-term cooperation and "enjoy a special position in the next century" as demand for oil and gas grows.

The National Iranian Oil Company brought security of supply in partnerships and was itself involved in overseas joint ventures, which it planned to expand, Hosseinian said.

He described the U.S. unilateral policy of trying to isolate Iran as proving "short-sighted and futile," and said that despite Washington's attempts, Iran had been successful in securing financial resources for many projects in both sectors.

Deputy Minister of Industry, Abolhassan Khamoushi, outlined the success of the country's first two five-year plans, saying it was the "era of reconstruction and renovation" in Iran.

He emphasized the common theme in the conference was that

(Contd on Pg.14)

China Not Engaged in Nuclear Proliferation

BEIJING – China demanded Wednesday that the United States cut arms sales to rival Taiwan as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began high level talks here.

"China is most concerned about massive sale of advanced weapons to Taiwan," Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said Wednesday at the start of his meeting with Christopher, who was also to see Prime Minister Li Peng and President Jiang Zemin.

"The question of Taiwan is the

(Contd on Pg.14)

Syria Pledges to Win Back Golan by Any Means

DAMASCUS – A senior member of Syria's ruling Baath Party said Wednesday his country would use any "appropriate" means to seize back the Golan Heights from Israel if peace talks failed to yield results.

"If the peace process were to fail, Syria will not accept that its lands remain under occupation, it will act to liberate them in a manner which it deems appropriate and it is prepared to use any methods to do so," said Tufic Salha, a member of the regional leadership of the Baath Party.

"Syria is working to bring about a global peace and is working with great determination to liberate land and reclaim all Arab rights," he told the opening of the eighth Congress of the Syrian Communist Party.

Syria is demanding the return of the Golan, seized by Israel in

(Contd on Pg.14)



TEHRAN (Nov. 19): A group of Hezbollahis and veteran war disabled gather in front of the German Embassy here condemning the verdict of the German Federal Court and describing it as a plot masterminded by the Zionist and the U.S. The protestors carry pictures of their friends who fell victims to chemical weapons which the German companies helped Iraq to manufacture during its imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran (1980-88). Photo: Mojtaba Takin

Ulema of Qom Theological School Condemn German Judicial System

QOM – Ulema and clergymen of the theological school of this holy city staged a protest demonstration here Wednesday, against the recent offensive remarks made by a German prosecutor against the sanctities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The demonstrators termed the offensive remarks as a plot against the sanctities of all the Muslims of the world.

The clergymen, academics and various strata of people attending the demonstration emphasized in a resolution that the Iranian people will never forget the role of the Germans in arming Iraq with chemical weapons for use in its war against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Republican Senator Shuttles Between Netanyahu, Assad

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS – U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter shuttled Wednesday between the Israeli and Syrian capitals in an apparent effort to revive stalled peace talks between the two countries.

Specter met Wednesday morning with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu before flying to Damascus to meet with Syrian President Hafez Assad, U.S. Embassy spokesman Richard Scorza said.

Scorza said he could not provide details on Specter's visit.

Specter will return to Israel on Thursday, and is to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat before leaving for Europe.

(Contd on Pg.14)

Amnesty International Condemns Silence Surrounding Algerian Horror

BRUSSELS, Belgium – Amnesty International appealed Tuesday for the world to break the wall of silence it says surrounds the horrors of murder, torture and kidnappings in Algeria where more than 50,000 people have died.

The human rights organization took to task both the government in Algiers, which it accused of systematic torture and abuse, as well as groups that have terrorized the North African nation for nearly five years.

Amnesty Secretary General Pierre Sane said while the tragedy in Zaire and Rwanda is broadcast "live and in technicolor every day" on the world's television screens, the drama in Algeria is passing virtually unnoticed.

"There is an atmosphere of terror and lawlessness in Algeria, where security forces commit extrajudicial executions, torture and 'disappearances,' armed opposition groups kill civilians, often decapitating and mutilating their victims, and government-backed militias have taken the law into their own hands," Sane told reporters in Brussels.

He said the government, attempting to convince the world that Algeria is a stable country, "imposes a quasi-total censorship."

Algerian news outlets have been instructed to play down the violence. The insurgents are referred to as a handful of terrorists, and most reports of bloodshed are played on inside pages and treated briefly.

More than 50,000 people have been killed since January 1992 when the army canceled legislative elections to abort an

(Contd on Pg.14)

Congratulations

Tomorrow marks the birth anniversary of Imam Mohammad Taqi (AS) the 9th Imam of the Infallible Household of the Holy Prophet of Islam Hazrat Mohammad (S). The staff of the Tehran Times avails this opportunity to congratulate Muslim nation of Iran and other Muslims all over the world on this auspicious occasion.

Editor

(See Page 4)

TEHRAN TIMES

TEHRAN TIMES NEWS SERVICE
Editor-in-Chief, Tel: 8809500
Editorial Office, Tel: 8810293-5
Electronic Access Tel: 8809437
8809470
Telex: 213662 TTIM IR
224569 TTIP IR
Fax No. 8808214
Address: No. 32, Koucheh Bimeh
Nejatollahi Ave. [former Villa]
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed at Keyhan

In the Name of Allah

But those who were unjust among them changed it for a saying other than that which had been spoken to them; so We sent upon them a pestilence from heaven because they were unjust.

(HOLY QORAN) (7:162)

OPINION

Iranians Hold German Nation in High Esteem, German Govt. Should Not Make Another Blunder

Over the past few days Iran has been the scene of angry protests against the Berlin court handling the Mykonos case sparked off by its partial stance and baseless allegations leveled against the Iranian senior officials.

The demonstrations and marches staged throughout Iran indicate that the Iranians are opposed to any kind of injustice. What has happened in the Mykonos case is in effect the mockery and travesty of justice.

Beyond any doubt, the Mykonos fiasco will bring discredit on the German nation. Although the Nazis made a grave mistake prior to and in the course of World War II, marring Germany's international image, today the German leaders should not perpetrate a blunder by reducing their Judiciary to a mere tool in the hands of the Zionists. In fact, taking such an action will by no means help to make up for Germany's past mistakes, but will deal a severe blow to the reputation of the German judicial system.

As the German citizens do, the Iranian people also advocate the independence of the Judiciary in their country and in Germany, hoping to see the judicial systems not affected by any influence. However, the Berlin court has well demonstrated that it is influenced by the Zionist circles in the U.S. and Germany. Indeed, by *summoning a group of terrorists and criminals to* testify in the court and relying on their false testimony and unfounded charges against the Iranian officials, the court officials have lost face.

The Iranian people, who have been offended by the German *Judiciary's irresponsible move, rightly* expect the German government to put its house in order. They have conveyed their strong objection to the Berlin court's unfair and partial stance on the Mykonos case through staging repeated demonstrations in front of the German Embassy, asking the German government to rectify the mistake committed by the court.

Unfortunately some German dailies and politicians have recently been trying to divert the world's attention from the core *of the matter--the Mykonos disaster--by bringing up non-existing* issues such as the insecurity of German diplomats in Tehran. Moreover, they are seeking to interpret the anger of the Iranian nation at the injustice exercised by the Berlin court and the inaction of German government as an affront to the German nation.

As a matter of fact, the history bears witness to the fact that the Iranians have always held the German nation in high esteem *and vice versa due to several historical and cultural reasons.* Hence the demonstrations which are currently being held in Tehran--and will continue until the German government takes substantive measures to rectify the mistake--are pointed at the German government's leniency toward the Mykonos case. The protests and rallies are indeed the manifestation of Iranian nation's hatred for the agents of the arrogant powers, particularly the influential Zionists, who have engineered the Mykonos scenario.

Undoubtedly, if the German government does not take an appropriate stand on the case, the Iranian people will press their government for breaking off ties with Germany.

The Germans should have realized by now that when the Islamic values are at stake, the stalwart Iranian people and their popular government do not compromise the principles of their Islamic Revolution even if they pay dearly for this. Thus, instead of committing another blunder, the German government had better mend fences and *not allow the strategic mutual bonds to* be weakened.

Ambassador Submits Credentials to UAE Minister

ABU DHABI -- Iran's new Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Hossein Sadeqi here Tuesday submitted a copy of his credentials to the UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed an-Nahyan.

Referring to the existing relations between the two countries, both sides underlined the need to further consolidate Tehran-Abu *Dhabi relations in all fields.*

At the end of the meeting, Sheikh Hamad wished success for the Iranian ambassador during his mission.

(IRNA)

Congress on Qoran and Velayat to Be Held

TEHRAN -- Simultaneous with the Basij (mobilization) Week (Nov. 21-27), a congress on Qoran and Velayat (jurisprudence) will be held at the Command Headquarters of the Basij Resistance Forces on Thursday.

Secretary of the congerss Hojjatoleslam Ali Reza Adyani further told IRNA Wednesday that more than 1,000 Qoran reciters, memorizers and instructors will attend the gathering.

The 2-day congress is aimed to expand Qoranic culture and scienece in the society.

(IRNA)

Kharrazi: Bringing Serb Criminals to Justice a Must

UNITED NATIONS, New York -- Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Kamal Kharrazi here Tuesday called on the International Tribunal to bring to justice the persons responsible for serious violation of international humanitarian law in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Addressing the 51st session of the UN General Assembly on report of the International Tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law, he stressed that the appalling atrocities committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia still continue to disturb the conscience of the international community.

He further stressed that the success of the tribunal to bring to justice the persons responsible for violation of international law would help healing the wounds caused by inhumane treatment directed against Bosnian Muslims by the Serbs, including genocide, ethnic cleansing, massive rape of women, torture and forcible displacement of civilians. "It would also send a message to the victims of such criminal acts, whose dimensions and ramifications are beyond any explanation, that humanity will not turn its back on them and the perpetrators will not be treated with impunity," he said.

Kharrazi further stressed that the effective functioning of the tribunal certainly would contribute, to a greater degree, to restoration of peace and security in the region.

Praising the tireless efforts made by the tribunal to uphold justice, the Iranian envoy pointed out that in the light of the wide scope of the atrocities committed in the Balkans, it is quite obvious that the trial of a few criminals and indictment of some others are far from realization of the objectives of the tribunal.

The Iranian envoy said that the international legal body which enjoys the support of international community, should redouble its efforts, fulfill effectively and swiftly the responsibility entrusted to it by the Security Council resolutions, and ensure that under no circumstances the imperative of justice would be overlooked.

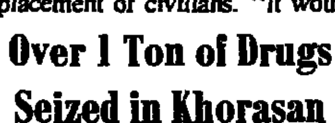
The report before the assembly indicates that some of the states or entities of the former Yugoslavia, in particular Serbia and Montenegro and so the called "Republika Srpska" still refuse to cooperate fully with the tribunal and refuse to arrest and transfer the criminals to meet the justice, he noted.

Such intractable recalcitrance cannot and should not be tolerated by the international community, he said adding, "We agree with the conclusion of the report that the persistent illegal refusal of certain states to surrender criminals for trial could certainly defeat the aim of the Security Council and may lead to recurrence of the distressing animosities of the past years."

Kharrazi further emphasized that the success of the tribunal in Achieving its objectives is certainly tantamount to the attainment of humanity in its fight against brutality.

Endorsing the suggestion made

(Contd on Pg. 1?)



Over 1 Ton of Drugs Seized in Khorasan

MASHHAD -- Some 1,033 kg of narcotic drugs have been siezed in Torbat-e Heidariyeh and Ghayen heights during the past two days, said Public Relations Office of the provincial Law Enforcemet Forces.

Nine drug traffickers were arrested and six RPG7 and Kalashnikov automatic rifles were seized.

(IRNA)

Gathering on Sistan-Baluchestan Opens

ZAHEDAN, Sistan-Baluchestan Province -- President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Wednesday stressed the role Sistan-Baluchestan Province plays in cultural and commercial relations with the neighboring countries.

The president made the statement in his message to the first gathering on Sistan-Baluchestan Province which was inaugurated here Wednesday.

The president expressed hope that the 3-day gathering will help further identify the potentials of the region.

Head of the Scientific Committee of the gathering, Dr. Habibollah *Dahmardeh said that 120* articles will be presented to the gathering.

(IRNA)

10th Int'l Congress on Nahj ul-Balaghah to Be Held

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- The 10th International Congress on Nahj ul-Balaghah is to start work in Tehran on Monday, Nov. 25 with the participation of Muslim *ulema* (scholars) from all over the world, said head of the Nahj ul-Balaghah Foundation Hojjatoleslam Seyed Jamaluddin Dinparvar at a press conference here Wednesday.

Nahj ul-Balaghah is a collection of words, letters, sermons and advice of Imam Ali (AS), the First Imam of the Household of the Holy Prophet (S), which was compiled by Seyed Radhi.

Referring to the objectives of the congress, Dinparvar underlined that the scholars of Islamic sciences will exchange views on different aspects of Nahj ul-Balaghah and that the practical ways of translating this remarkable book into different languages will also be explored.

The hojjatoleslam further said that, during the congress entitled 'Imam Ali (AS), Mysticism and Justice', the best book on the character of Imam Ali (AS) and Nahj ul-Balaghah will be selected.

Touching on the international activities of the Nahj ul-Balaghah Foundation, Dinparvar noted that the foundation has so far translated Nahj ul-Balaghah into 10 modern languages and that some parts of this book have been translated even into 40 languages.

He pointed out that the foundation plans to establish a center for research on Nahj ul-Balaghah. Dinparvar also added that, through the center, the foundation can boost its cooperation with other Islamic and non-Islamic countries in carrying out research in this regard.

Referring to the noble personality of Imam Ali (AS) as one of the most prominent figures in the history of Islam, the hojjatoleslam emphasized that even non-Muslims in many European countries are eager to know more about the Imam's way of life and different aspects of his personality.

In conclusion, Dinparvar noted that the foundation intends to call on the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to designate a year as 'the Year of Imam Ali (AS), the chief of the faithful, and Nahj ul-Balaghah'.

Ambassador Meets Saudi Arabian Parliament Speaker

TEHRAN -- Iran's Ambassador to Riyadh, Nuri Shahrudi met with Speaker of *Majlis ash-Shoura* (Parliament) of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Muhammad ibn Ibrahim al-Jubair, on Wednesday.

In the meeting, Shahrudi emphasized the friendly relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Al-Jubair praised the achievements made by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fields of legislation, economy and agriculture.

(IRNA)

Three Historical Sites in Iran Registered on World Heritage Map

TEHRAN -- Three cultural and historical sites in Iran were registered as important world heritage sites, it was announced here on Tuesday.

According to Nader Nasser-ol-Me'mar, of the Cultural Heritage Organization of Iran, the three sites are Isfahan's famous Naqsh-e Jahan Square and the historic buildings surrounding it (16th century), the ruins of Takht-e-Jamshid (Persepolis) near Shiraz belonging to the Achaemenid Era (4th-5th BC), and the Elamite ruins of the Chaghazanbil Ziggurat in Shush, which is believed to date back to 3000 BC.

The sprawling, rectangular-shaped Naqsh-e Jahan Square is the heart-throb of Isfahan city. It is flanked by the turquoise-domed Masjid-e Imam (Shah Abbas Mosque) on its south, the equally elegant but smaller Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque on its east, the Ali Qapu gateway of what was once Shah Abbas' palace on its west, and the bustling main bazaar of Isfahan on its north.

Nasser-ol-Me'mar said that his organization has plans to register 27 more sites in Iran on the world heritage map.

The tomb of the 8th century AD *Mongol Ilkhanid* ruler, Oljaitu, in Soltaniyeh, known popularly as the Gonbad-e Soltaniyeh for the unique architectural style of its huge dome, is among sites in Iran which deserve international registration, he added.

(IRNA)

3rd Conference to Review Tehran-Moscow Ties to Open Saturday

TEHRAN -- The Deputy Foreign Minister for Education and Research, Abbas Maleki here Wednesday announced that the *third conference to review* the prospect of Irano-Russian relations would open here Saturday.

Speaking to IRNA, he noted that Tehran-Moscow ties as well as regional and international relations will be discussed during the two-day conference.

The first Irano-Russian conference was held in Terhan in 1994 and the second in Moscow in October 1995 with *participation of* senior Russian officials.

Referring to Tehran-Moscow extensive relations in various economic, commercial, political, cultural and social areas, Maleki said that a number of Iranian provinces have established relations with some autonomous republics of Russia via the Caspian Sea.

Issues related to Tajik crisis, establishment of the Caspian Sea oil and gas company, and implementation of the final statement of the Caspian Sea ministerial meeting, as well as critical situation in Afghanistan, Caucasus and Karabakh will be among other topics to be discussed with regards to Irano-Russian regional affairs, he reported.

Different issues including disarmament, human rights and the UN macro decision-making will be reviewed in connection with the two countries' international cooperation.

Maleki concluded by saying that a *number of high-ranking officials* of the two countries will attend the conference.

(IRNA)

Airline Staff Visit Iran to Promote Tourism

ATHENS -- Thirty-five employees of Greece's national carrier 'Olympic Airways' and foreign airlines based in Athens began a one-week tour of the Islamic Republic Wednesday.

"The aim of the tour is to inform them of the developments made in Iran in order to promote tourism in the Islamic Republic," Susan Rafiqzadeh, working for the Costos Travel Agency, the organizer of the tour, told IRNA.

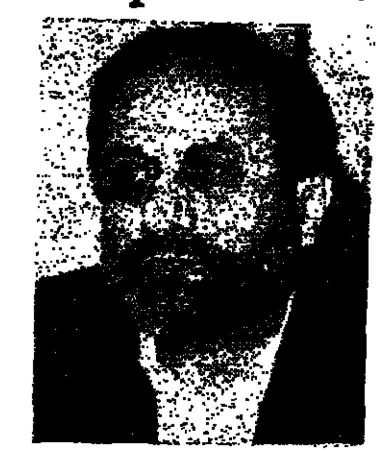
She said another group of forty staff members of different airlines will visit Iran on November 27.

The tour has been organized in cooperation with Iran Air, Iran's national airline.

(IRNA)

Iran, Uruguay Discuss Expansion of Cooperation


Pioli


Khamoushi

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The visiting Uruguayan Deputy Minister of Agriculture Robert Rodrigez Pioli in a meeting with Head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines Ali-Naqi Khamoushi here on Tuesday said that Tehran-Montevideo cooperation in the fields of fisheries, agriculture, animal husbandry, cultivation, industry and foodstuff was of high significance.

Pioli said that commercial cooperation between Iran and Uruguay would help boost their exports, IRNA reported.

He said that holding of an exclusive trade fair by Iran in Uruguay in future would pave the ground for marketing of Iranian-made goods.

Khamoushi said for his part that Iran is the consumer of Uruguayan rice and wool.

He underlined expansion of bilateral ties and said that a commercial and industrial delegation would leave Iran for Uruguay simultaneous with the inauguration of Iran's trade fair in that country.

Italy's Import of Oil From Iran Soars

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Italy's import of oil from Iran between January and July amounted to 6.7 millions tons, showing a rise of 32.9 percent compared to the same period in 1995, IRNA reported.

Italian Oil Union said in a report in Rome on Wednesday that Iran supplied 17.5 percent of Italy's total oil requirements in the mentioned period.

Iran stood second in the list of oil exporters to Italy after Saudi Arabia within the period.

Italy imported a total of 44.41 million tons of oil within the period, 0.2 percent more than the similar period last year.

Congress Explores Iran's Trade Transit Potentials

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A first congress on transit and re-export of goods started in Kerman Tuesday. The purpose of the congress is to review the potential in Iran for transit and re-export of goods. Iran has 15 border roads linking the country with Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan.

The congress also aims to identify the problems that exist on the way of the ideal use of roads and the ways and means to surmount those problems, IRNA reported.

The Islamic Republic is able to earn upwards of $two billion annually on transit of goods to other countries. A number of world countries such as Singapore, Greece, and Turkey rely on their earnings on transit of goods as a main source for their national revenue.

Experts at the congress here say that one reason why transit of goods in Iran has not developed consistent with national potential has been inadequate knowledge of transit potentials in Iran.

Iranian expert at the congress Behzad Dowlatshahi says the benefits of transit as a means of earning capital has yet remained unknown in Iran. He says transit of goods to other destinations has both political, economic, and social benefits.

Additionally, he says, various government organizations such as the customs adminisration, the ports authority, the railway organization, the suface transport authority of the Ministry of Roads and Transportation, law enforcement officials and quarantine department of Agriculture Ministry will have to cooperate closely in order that transit of goods through the coutnry might be undertaken successfully.

Amir-Mansour Qane Karimi, another professional in the field says that for a successful transit of goods international standards will have to be observed without prejudice to any aspect of the sovereignty of the state in any area.

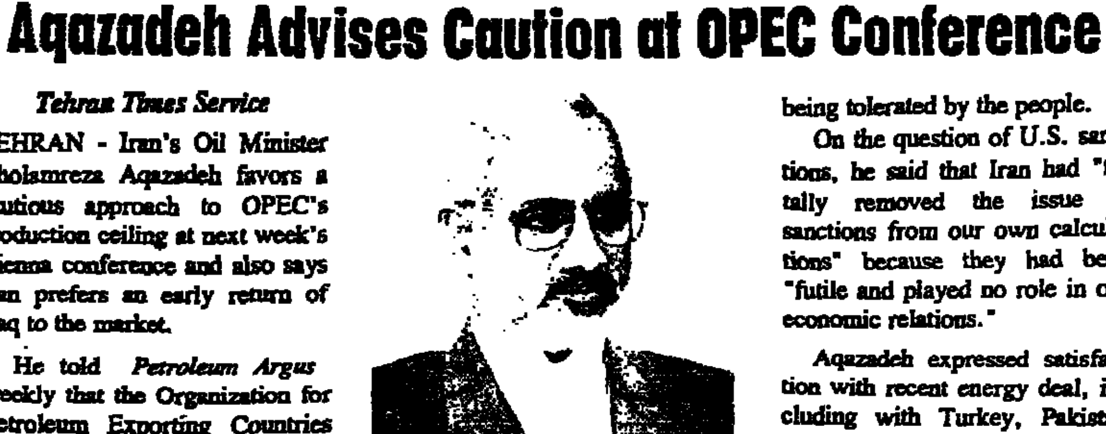
It was said in the congress Monday that there are about 500 international forwarders in Iran using 12,000 heavy trucks in the inland system, there are now about 176,000 trucks and trailers in Iran carrying goods between various towns and cities on about 73,079 kilometers of roads in Iran.

Aqazadeh Advises Caution at OPEC Conference

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh favors a cautious approach to OPEC's production ceiling at next week's Vienna conference and also says Iran prefers an early return of Iraq to the market.

He told *Petroleum Argus* weekly that the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries should not get carried away by this year's high price, but held back in clearly advocating a rollover of its 25 million barrels per day ceiling, IRNA reported.



"OPEC should be very careful because, although crude prices are string right now, there is no guarantee this situation will continue," Aqazadeh said, adding that Iran's position at the ministerial meeting on November 27 depends on consultations.

He was also quoting to be seeking a frank discussion on overproduction, saying that if there was going to be some, "it has to be divided among all the members on a fair basis, not just limited to certain member states."

With regard to the continued prospect of Iraq's return, the minister said that Iran's position was that it should come to the market soon, adding Tehran was "very concerned" about the situation in Iraq and the suffering being tolerated by the people.

On the question of U.S. sanctions, he said that Iran had "totally removed the issue of sanctions from our own calculations" because they had been "futile and played no role in our economic relations."

Aqazadeh expressed satisfaction with recent energy deal, including with Turkey, Pakistan and Malaysia's Petronas and confirmed that his country was continuing to pursue "buy-back" contracts to harness foreign investment.

He said that he expected to announce the result of Balal and Soroush in the "next couple of months" with other awards to follow.

Negotiations are said to be continuing over the development of Salman Gas Field, Doroud gas injection and the second phase of South Pars Gas Field projects in spite of American threats to punish foreign firms.

Petroleum Argus quoted European officials saying that it was "not hard" to bypass U.S. sanctions, suggesting that companies forming consortiums could stay comfortable below the level of $40 million a year allowed in the latest wave of U.S. legislation.

Iran's Oil Minister put Iran's upstream capacity at 4.1 million bpd, saying it would rise mostly offshore but also onshore on completion of the 200,000 bpd Parsi gas injection project.

Shiraz Produces Over 114,000 Tons of Industrial Nitrates

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The acid and nitrate producing units of the Shiraz Petrochemical Complex produced 114,340 tons of products during the first half of the current Iranian year (started March 20).

Of this amount, 13,810 tons were various kinds of industrial nitrates, said a complex official, Reza Yazdan-Panah Wednesday, IRNA reported.

This shows an increase of 44 percent compared to the same period last year, he added.

The ammonia nitrate unit of the complex produced 22,010 tons of agricultural and industrial nitrates in the Iranian month of Mordad (July 22- August 21). The output is 1,160 tons more than previous monthly productions of the complex, he said.

Exports Boost Canadian Economy, But Also Dependence on U.S.

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Booming exports have boosted the Canadian economy during the last two years but dependence on the U.S. market could make Canada vulnerable, the World Trade Organization (WTO) warned on Tuesday.

The WTO, in a report highlighting what it termed the virtuous performance of Canadian policy, said that strong U.S. demand, currency depreciation and liberalization under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), had boosted exports, an AFP dispatch reported.

NAFTA, which had spurred bilateral cuts of tariffs, had deepened integration of the Canadian and U.S. economies but had increased Canadian dependency on the U.S. market.

The United States takes four-fifths of Canadian merchandise exports and provides two thirds of its imports.

"While most sectors are now exposed to, and perform well in, full competition with their U.S. counterparts, concerns persist, however, about Canada's high reliance on one large trading partner, and the authorities recognize the need for diversification," the WTO said.

Companies based in the United States accounted for 90 percent of all cars and 60 percent of all computers produced in Canada.

Under NAFTA, Canadian tariffs on U.S.-made goods currently averaged about one percent.

All bilateral tariffs, except those affecting some agricultural products, are to be eliminated by 1998.

The WTO said that Canada was developing new trade links, for example through the Asian-Pacific economic cooperation, and through a free-trade agreement with Chile which was intended to complement NAFTA. But these would not comprise Canada's actions at the multinational level.

"Canada's overall trade policies remain firmly anchored in the WTO," it said.

In general, the report on Canada's trade policies highlighted a virtuous combination of external liberalization and internal deregulation.

"This has helped to ease distortions in the incentive system, consolidate public finances and create a stronger basis for longer-term economic expansion."

But high unemployment, and weak domestic demand which lagged behind growth of gross domestic product (GDP), remained weak points in the economy, it said.

Deregulation has "touched some of the largest, and previously most-protected service sectors of the Canadian economy," among which were financial services, telecommunication and air transportation, the WTO said.

Structures for transportation were being put on a commercial footing.

Conditions for foreign investment had improved, the WTO said. But Canada continued to restrict investment activity in sectors deemed "sensitive" for strategic, economic or cultural reasons.

While exports soared, Canada had relaxed on anti-dumping measures. However, more than 90 measures remained in force.

4 Million People Covered by Insurance

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - More than four million people are covered by the "insurance for the deprived" and recieve pensions from the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, said head of the committee, Seyed Reza Nayery, on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Speaking to the one-day meeting of the committee's provincial directors-general in the southern city of Dezful, he reiterated that the committee is dutybound to do more for the welfare of respected poor and deprived people.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the new building of the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee in Dezful was inagurated.

China Main Factor as U.S. Trade Deficit Widens

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Amid an increasing gap with China, the U.S. trade deficit widened in September to 11.3 billion dollars from 10.3 billion in August, the U.S. Commerce Department reported Wednesday, as quoted by AFP.

The data showed China eclipsing Japan as the main culprit in the growing U.S. trade deficit.

The overall goods and services trade deficit, which is seasonally adjusted, was well above the consensus forecast of wall street economists of 9.6 billion dollars.

The trade deficit in August was revised to 10.3 billion dollars, compared with the initial estimate of a deficit of 10.8 billion.

For the first eight months of the year, the trade deficit totaled 85.5 billion dollars, versus 85.7 billion in the first eight months of 1995.

For the first time on record, the third quarter deficit with China of 13.3 billion dollars exceeded the quarterly deficit with Japan of 11.9 billion, the commerce department said.

The monthly deficit with China continued to outpace the gap with Japan. In September, the United States recorded a record trade deficit with China of 4.732 billion dollars, up from 3.625 billion a year earlier and 4.713 billion in August.

The trade gap with Japan was 3.79 billion dollars in September, down from 4.37 billion a year earlier and 3.80 billion in August.

Larry Chimerine, chief economist with the Economic Strategy Institute, called the new trade figures "pretty depressing."

"I think it's pretty clear that while the numbers will bounce around from month to month, our trade deficit with China continues to grow rapidly," said Chimerine, whose organization studies trade issues.

"It's not only the level of the deficit but it's the composition. It's not just low-priced shirts and sneakers. They're moving into auto parts and electronics ... and other value-added items."

Chimerine said that despite the recent narrowing of the trade gap with Japan, that deficit will likely increase as well because a series of accords with Japan have had only a limited impact.

Whether Japan or China is the biggest factor in the trade deficit is immaterial, the economist said.

"I think it'll be higher on a trend basis with China, but which one is higher doesn't make much difference. The point is we have a serious structural imbalance with Japan and China. It's scary."

The commerce department said overall September exports were 1.0 billion dollars less than August, while September imports were virtually unchanged from the previous month.

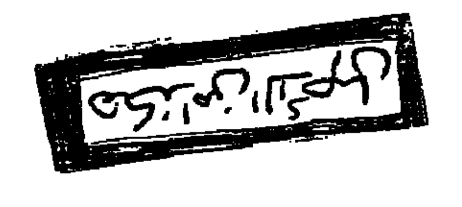
The merchandise trade deficit widened to 16.1 billion dollars in September, compared with 14.3 billion in August. This is the highest monthly trade deficit on record.

In the services-only category, the United States had a surplus of 6.3 billion dollars in September, compared with a surplus of 6.1 billion in the previous month.

The trade deficit with the European Union was 1.2 billion dollars in September compared with a 1.6 billion deficit the prior month and a deficit of 260 million in September 1995.

The United States had a trade surplus in September of 130 million dollars with Britain, and deficits of 1.1 billion with Germany, 428 million with France and 591 million with Italy.

With Mexico, the deficit widened to 1.7 billion dollars from 1.5 billion in August and 1.3 billion in September 1995.



Imam Mohammad Taqi (AS), the Paragon of Piety

Tehran Times Service

Friday November 22 marks the auspicious birth anniversary of the ninth infallible Imam of the world Shi'ites. According to some narrations the ninth Imam was born on the tenth of Rajab in the year 195 Hejri Qamari (the Islamic calendar) in the city of Medina and the penetrating radiation of his holy birth swept the world over.

The sobriquet of the Imam is Aba Jafar and his titles are Taqi, Javad, Qane,' Morteza and Montakhab the most noteworthy of them is Taqi signifying a pious person and Javad meaning generous and benevolent.

The ninth Imam was renowned for having a sweeping command of science, philosophy and ethics even when he had not reached the age of puberty. His peers were in no way comparable to his prodigious thought patterns. It is related that one day Ma'mun the Abassid Caliph offered the Imam a toy but the latter politely remarked that "We have not been created for playing. There is a significant and ultimate purpose for our creation." These words stunned Ma'mum beyond measure. Furthermore, a great number of scholars would call on the Imam seeking solution for various problems and they always received propitious answers from the Imam. The enormity of the Imam's discussions at the age of nine has astounded the scholars of the world over today.

The Imam's sweeping power revealed in his scientific and philosophical discussions at the age of nine has plunged the scholars into amazement the world over. It has also been related that at a session Imam Mohammad Taqi (AS) responded to thirty thousand questions posed by Hajis at a time when he was not more than 10 years of age.

Another outstanding trait of the Imam was his exceptional prowess and courage in expressing what was truthful fearing no one but God Almighty. He dauntlessly embarked on the delineation of the secondary aspects of religion and scientific problems. A salient and vividly penetrating characteristic of the Imam was his overflowing generosity.

Imam Taqi (AS) during his seventeen years of Imamate (religious leadership) mostly engaged in praying, advancement of the Islamic precepts, teaching religious decrees and the exegesis of the Qoran. The major pursuit of the Imam was the dissimination and advancement of the Islamic thought and safeguarding the prestige of Islam from the infidels and the enemies. He also spent his time solving problems with his impeccable exactitude.

The duration of the Imam's Imamate coincided with the rule of two of the Abassid Caliphs namely Ma'mun and Mo'tasem. These Caliphs through pressuring the Muslims aimed at dealing a blow on the stature of Islam. Imam Mohammad Taqi (AS) under such contaminated atmosphere and strangulations embarked on the guidance of the Muslims openly divulging the crimes and atrocities of the Abassid Caliphs. The Abassid Caliphs left no stone unturned to propagate the predestination conception of the Ashae'reh, which is vividly an imperialistic thesis and incompatible with the precepts of the Qoran, in the Muslim communities. The Imam with relentless participation in various meetings launched his inexorable and adamant assault on such notions. In this regard Imam Taqi (AS) has aptly and beautifully stated: "The tyrant and his assistant and the one seeking gratification from the tyranny are all participants in the sin of the tyranny." We congratulate the world Muslims on the auspicious birth anniversary of Imam Mohammad Taqi (AS).

Imam Javad (AS) Stated:

*** Passage of time unveils hidden secrets of the universe.**

*** Teacher and student both share the guidance and intellectual growth.**

*** Rely on your steadfastness to defy desires.**

Imam Mohammad Taqi (AS): "The tyrant and his assistant and the one seeking gratification from the tyranny are all participants in the sin of the tyranny."

Supplication of Kumayl

3

O Allah, verily I ask You with the asking
of a submissive, abased and lowly man
to show me forbearance,
to have mercy on me and
to make me satisfied and content
with Your apportionment,
and humble in every state.
O Allah, I ask You with the asking of one
whose indigence is extreme,
who has stated to You in difficulties his need
and whose craving for what is with You
has become intense.
O Allah, Great is Your Kingdom,
Lofty is Your Being
Your contrivance is hidden,
Your Command is manifest,
Your Domination is overwhelming,
Your Power is ever-operating
and escape from Your Domain is impossible.
O Allah, I find no forgiver of my sins,
no concealer of my wicked acts,
no transformer of any of my wicked acts
into good acts but You.
There is no deity but You!
Glory be to You, and Yours is the Praise!

Space Jam Slam Dunks $29 Million at Box Office in First Weekend

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood's latest odd couple pairing basketball genius Michael Jordan and Looney Tune wise-cracking character Bugs Bunny racked up $29 million in Space Jam over the weekend.

The live-action/animated movie aimed at kids but drawing on parents who grew up with the Warner Pros. cartoon characters played on 2,650 screens around the country.

The movie is very much a marketing vehicle that while likely draw more money at the cash register than at the box-office thanks to its merchandising tie-ins with major retailers and McDonald's.

"Space Jam" muscled past "Ransom" that featured Mel Gibson as a wealthy parent cum frenzied vigilante in pursuit of his son. That movie took in 23 million at the box-office.

In third place was Barbra Streisand's "The Mirror Has Two Faces" with $12.2 million, the most respectable opening for one of her films.

Miramax's much-acclaimed "The English Patient" pulled in $265,000 at 10 screens in New York, Los Angeles and Toronto.

(AFP)

Seminar of Ahl ul-Bait Assembly Held in Washington

Tehran Times Service

WASHINGTON — Concurrent with the birth anniversary of Imam Mohammad Baqer (AS) and Imam Ali (AS), the first 'Seminar of Ahl ul-Bait Assembly in America' was held Nov. 16 & 17 in the state of Maryland, Washington, to discuss issues regarding the status of the Shia' in America and Canada.

The two-day seminar was attended by Ulema, scholars and prominent characters of the world of Islam.

The designs drawn by the Persians, especially drawings of Iran's national animal, the mountain goat, have been infused with the spirit of simplicity and precision. These designs are unique in all of Asia.

Time to Stop Running

Harmless and homeless, the "Bushmen" of South Africa are reclaiming their ancestral lands

As a Kalahari wind lifts and swirls the red sand around him, an ailing old man called Regopstaan lies in a ramshackle shanty and dreams of the far-off days when his father taught him how to stalk and hunt the gemsbok (oryx) across the desert dunes. The 95-year-old Regopstaan – his name means "standing upright" in Afrikaans – wants to see his people return, before he dies, to the hunting grounds of his boyhood. He is the fading patriarch of a community of 250 homeless Kalahari San – the aborigines of southern Africa long known as Bushmen, though today that term is considered derogatory. For hundreds of years they have had no place to call their own, but under the land-restitution laws of the new, democratic South Africa, these Stone Age tribesmen are at last reclaiming their ancestral heritage, including half of the 960,000-hectare Kalahari Gemosbok National Park.

It is generally accepted that the San were the first known human inhabitants of southern Africa. Their simple hunter-gatherer life was interrupted 2,000 years ago by rival tribes from the north who herded animals and were themselves finally destroyed by the arrival of Europeans settlers in the 17th century. In some areas the nomadic San were treated as vermin, and farmers were encouraged by cash rewards to shoot the aborigines off the lands. The hunters became the hunted, and the San scattered into small family groups throughout the Kalahari desert region of South Africa and what are now Botswana an Namibia. When the colonial governments ultimately steered Bantu tribal groups into reserves and homelands, the San were given nothing. "Historically, the only defense the Bushmen have had against threats to their existence has been to flee," says Roger Chennells, the lawyer for the San's Land Claim Committee. "Now it's time for them to stop running."

Chennells, a human-rights specialist, has joined Cape Town musicologist Kait Andrews in championing the San cause. Andrews became involved after studying aboriginal music and dance and meeting Sir Laurens van der Post, the South Africa-born philosopher and author of books on San lore. "One of the names they have for themselves is 'the harmless people,' and you can see why," Andrews says. "Their simplicity is awesome. They see God in everything."

The San in fact insist that it is they who belong to the land rather than that the land belongs to them. While it is not easy to define the boundaries of their natural domain, says Chennells, they have at one time or other occupied about 4,000 sq km of territory, including virtually all the southern half of the Kalahari Gemsbok Park. The San also claim that South Africa's National Parks Board reneged on a 1940 agreement to let them live in a reserved area within the Gemsbok Park and by 1970 had kicked them all out.

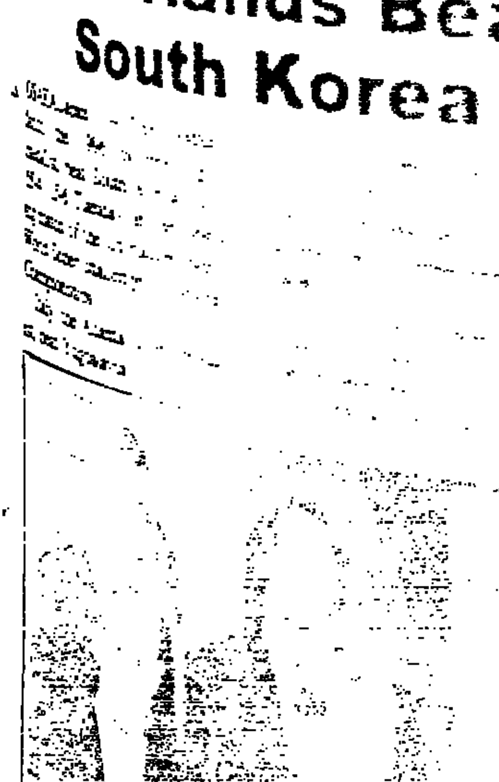
The southern Kalahari San say their traditional territory includes what is now private land in the remote Mier district to the south of the game park, where local farmers have already aggressively opposed the claim. Says Barend Oeloff Mouton, 50, chairman of the Mier Farmers' Union: "We are sympathetic to the Bushmen, and we feel they should be given some land. But they were never a part of the Mier community. They came from the north, where the park is. That's where their home should be."

None of the San's supporters demand that a handful of largely illiterate, loinclothed, marijuana-smoking (a traditional custom) desert tribesmen should become formal owners and managers of all the territory they are claiming. Chennells, Andrews and other advocates are suggesting instead that the San, who are natural hunters and superb trackers, should be allowed to use the Kalahari land to earn a livelihood. The possibilities include teaching tourist wildlife enthusiasts bushcraft and being employed as trackers for hunting safaris. Andrews believes, moreover, that the San should be granted proper title to a piece of land somewhere in the area of their claim. "They have nothing. They needs something negotiable for the future," she insists.

The Kalahari aborigines are fascinating both to their more "civilized" neighbors and to scholars and tourists from all over the world. Two weeks ago, for example, some of Regopstaan's people went with visitors over the dunes to a school in the town of Mier. The teachers there were more than welcoming: They delightedly used the close encounter with the aborigines as an opportunity for an extracurricular natural-history class.

Later, as the bloodred sun cast long shadows over the dunes at the San squatter camp called Welkom, near the gateway to the Gemsbok park, Klaas Kruiper, a grandson of Regopstaan who was wearing his *g!aia* (loincloth) and carrying a bow and arrow, led his four-year-old son on a hunting and tracking lesson that reached back to a time when the San and the land were one. "We want a place where the sand is soft and clean and the water is sweet," says Regopstaan. His name in the click language of the San is *!Ang!oub*, which means survivor. His descendants aim to inherit the name.

(Courtesy the Time)



BASKETBALL-NBA-RESULTS

WASHINGTON – Results and standings from the National Basketball Association here Wednesday:

Tuesday Results:

Seattle 106, Toronto 98 Cleveland 73, Atlanta 63 New York 92, Orlando 88 Houston 122, Minnesota 93 Milwaukee 100, Dallas 97 Miami 104, Denver 86 Portland 92, Sacramento 90 (ot) La Lakers 112, Golden State 109

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Div.

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	8	2	.800	-
Orlando	4	2	667	2
Miami	6	4	.600	2
Philadelphia	4	5	444	3 1/2
Washington	4	5	444	3 1/2
Boston	2	6	250	5
New Jersey	1	5	.167	5

Central Div.

	w	l	pct	gb
Chicago	10	0	1.000	-
Detroit	8	1	889	1 1/2
Cleveland	7	3	700	3
Milwaukee	6	4	600	4
Atlanta	5	6	455	5 1/2
Charlotte	3	5	375	6
Toronto	3	6	333	6 1/2
Indiana	2	6	250	7

Western Conference

Midwest Div.

	w	l	pct	gb
Houston	9	1	900	
Utah	5	2	714	2 1/2
Minnesota	4	.444	4 1/2	
Denver	4	7	364	5 1/2
Dallas	2	7	222	6 1/2
San Antonio	2	7	222	6 1/2
Vancouver	1	10	091	8 1/2

Pacific Div.

	w	l	pct	gb
Seattle	9	2	.818	-
La Lakers	8	3	727	1
Portland	7	5	583	2 1/2
La Clippers	5	4	556	3
Sacramento	4	7	364	5
Golden State	3	7	300	5 1/2
Phoenix	0	9	000	8

(AFP)



ORLANDO, FL, United States (November 19): New York Knicks forward Charles Oakley (34) pulls in a rebound past Orlando Magic forward Derek Strong (33) during the first period of the game at the Orlando Arena.

(AFP PHOTO)

Netherlands Beats South Korea

OSAKA,Japan – The Netherlands, the 1996 olympic gold medalist, beat South Korea 15-5, 15-4, 15-6 Tuesday in the opening match of the six-nation men's World Super challenge Volleyball Championships.

Italy, the Atlanta silver medalist, beat Yugoslavia 15-9, 15-17, 15-13, 15-8 and China beat Japan 4-15, 15-8, 15-9, 7-15, 15-13 before 3,200 spectators at the Osaka Municipal Gymnasium in western Japan.

The Round-Robin Tournament continues through Sunday, with the winner receiving dlrs 200,000 from the dlrs 400,000 purse. (AP).

Bacher Bats His Way into Record Books

JOHANNESBURG — Adam Bacher, nephew of former Springbok captain Ali Bacher, became the first South African to score a century and a double century in a first class match on Monday.

The 23-year-old Transvaal opener took his overnight 74 to 112 not out to add to his first innings 210 as his side recorded a 93-run victory over Griqualand West in the Supersport Series, the former Currie Cup competition, in Kimberley.

Although the feat was performed in 1992 by Allan Lamb, the South African born batsman who played test cricket for England, his 209 and 107 for Northamptonshire against Warwickshire at Edgbaston was discounted by the United Cricket Board of South Africa.

Ali Bacher, now managing director of the UCB, said the board did not regard lamb as a South Africa.

This is the first time the feat has been performed by a South African, he said.

(AP)



HANNOVER, GERMANY (November 18): Seven of the eight best tennis players, (L-R, back) Dutch Richard Krajicek, Croat Goran Ivanisevic and German Boris Becker, and (L-R, front) Austrian Thomas Muster, Russian Yevgeni Kafelnikov, and Michael Chang and Pete Sampras from the US pose for photographers in Hannover after the draw of the groups for the ATP World Championships. Andre Agassi from the US could not attend the photo session. (AFP PHOTO)

Graf Rolls to WTA Triumph

NEW YORK, – World co-number one Steffi Graf beat Slovakia's Karina Habsudova 6-1, 6-4, in 48 minutes here Tuesday in her opening match at the two million-dollar WTA championships.

The victory sent Graf into a quarter-final against world number eight Lindsey Davenport of the United States.

With co-number one Monica Seles retiring in her opening match, Graf is all but certain to retain her top ranking at year's end, especially if she takes a fifth title at the season-ending event that matches the tour's top 16 players. (AF)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

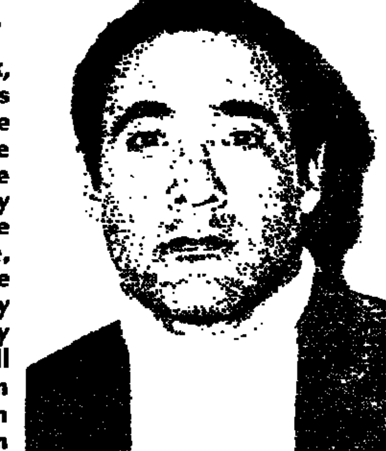
By Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

Skills of Kung Fu

What Is Kung Fu?

(Part 15)

Tan-Teen's Breathing Know-How



Ewechin Ech-Hoo in his book, Hwang Gar Kung Fu, refers to a problem which all the trainees of Chinese boxing face with. Hi Hoo believes that the issue of breathing is seemingly full of mysteries. Unlikely the skills of boxing which are visible, breathing and energy are invisible powers. They strengthen us both physically and mentally. Putting aside all the conundrums, the Western university students when compared with their Eastern counterparts instinctively suffer from a hindrance in their achievements. It is simply because the Westerners do not respire deeply since the first scholastic courses teach them to apply the upper part of their bodies and expand their chests while taking a deep breath and this is in sharp contrast to the Chinese healthy principles for a helpful breath. Respiration through expanding the chest is strongly rejected by the Chinese. Hence, the kung fu trainees should forget what they have learned before. Once the Eastern and Western trainees quite get it, they will give up the enigmas overshadowing the importance of correct breathing and Chee-Eye's trainings in kung fu.

Respiration according to Tan-Teen's method is branched from muscles of the body's lower part septa. A Chinese traditional proverb says, "Breathing is the ruler of power." Breathing in short-time daily exercise as Tan-Teen advises increase stability, develops the muscles and enables the brain to concentrate on Chee-Eye's principles.

The lungs are the indicators of power. The weak and old lungs can apply just a part of their capacity and finally turn into unable organs. Conversely, the health and strong lungs which have natural exhalations in different intervals make the brain and body strong.

According to Robert Smith, "The infants and children instinctively inspire with their diaphragms, but when they grew up they start breathing with their chests. To have strong bodies, the kung fu trainees should breathe like the newly born infants.

Firstly, take the figure of riding on horseback illustrated in chapter of 'Standing Positions'. This old position of standing have been used by the kung fu masters for centuries. At the first stage, it may



seem easy, but in fact it is not as easy as it seems. Of course, the pains in waist and legs caused at the beginning will disappear with regular exercises.

Then apply Tan-Teen's respiration method, i.e. inhale into your nose from approximately 7.5 centimeters under your navel, in the belly area, but never move your chest and let it be completely immovable considered as the hard part of the exercise and just apply the muscles of your diaphragm. Concentrate on the lower part of your body and think of the air passing through your nose and moving toward your lungs and abdomen. Then exhale through your mouth so that the air is driven out by your diaphragm. Continue your normal inspiration and avoid any unnecessary pressure. The process at all stages should be carried out slowly and free of pressure.

European Parliament President Blasts Israeli Settlements

RAMALLAH, West Bank – The president of the European Parliament on Wednesday blasted Israeli plans to expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Let me state clearly: New settlements are illegal and there must be no expansion," Klaus Haensch told the members of the Palestinian Council at their meeting in Ramallah. "Bulldozers do not pave the way for peace."

The council rolled out a red carpet for Haensch and frequently interrupted his speech with applause.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who took office in June, has endorsed the expansion of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, which Israel captured from Jordan in 1967. In recent weeks, the Israeli defense minister has approved the construction of thousands of new apartments in settlements.

Haensch expressed support for Palestinian statehood, but said Palestinians must be patient with the faltering peace talks with Israel.

"We know that the peace process has not yet met your aspirations," he said. "The people you represent must be convinced that patient negotiation will bring its own rewards."

Haensch told the legislators he shared their concern that "the continuing lack of progress in the talks and the negotiations on Hebron ... will lead back to suspicion, distrust and confrontation."

The European Parliament is the General Assembly of the 15-nation European Union. Haensch, only the second high-ranking European official to address the council since its inauguration in March, told Palestinian lawmakers the EU would cooperate with the United States to try to ensure that peace talks run smoothly.

"The idea that a pro-Palestinian European Union should balance out a pro-Israeli United States is worse than a caricature, it is false," he said. "Neither the European Union, nor the United States holds the key to peace. Peace lies in the hands of your people and in the hands of the Israelis."

"I see your dynamic, industrious people focusing all your skills and intelligence to building a country of prosperity, justice and dignity. A state, yes a state, respected by all because it respects all."

The EU is the main source of financial support for the Palestinian autonomy government, providing more than $7 million in aid since 1993.

In his welcoming speech, Palestinian Council speaker Ahmed Qureia praised "the honest efforts of the European Union to present the collapse of the peace process, which is on the verge of disaster due to the Israeli delay in implementing the agreements."

(AFP)

NATO Nabs Lone Gunman Near British Peacekeeper's Base

SARAJEVO British peacekeepers tracked down a lone sniper who had been taking pot shots at their base in northern Bosnia, a NATO spokesman said Wednesday.

A drunken man was arrested by local Bosnian Serb police and a rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition were seized by the NATO peacekeepers in an operation on Tuesday, major Brett Boudreau said.

Boudreau, spokesman for the NATO-led Peace Implementation Force, said the man was tracked down after a "British patrol succeeded in identifying the firing point."

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

LONDON...

"economic prosperity, within the framework of regional and international economic cooperation, is the key to political stability in the Persian Gulf."

The security of oil supply and the security of the Persian Gulf was of utmost importance to many industrialized nations and was the same sentiment and view shared exactly by Iran, Khamoushi said.

But he questioned U.S. policy in claiming to bear the main responsibility, saying that its so-called "dual containment" was "nothing more than a U.S. instrument for further involvement in the Persian Gulf."

Also speaking at the seminar, the first on Iran organized by the CBI since 1990, was Deputy Minister of Commerce, Mohammad Nahavandian, who described the country's trade policies.

He told British executives that firms choosing to utilize Iran's infrastructure would find themselves at the "vortex of an economic renaissance that is rapidly transforming not only Iran but the region."

The country's trade strategy was working towards enhancing regional and inter-regional cooperation, where Iran was playing a pivotal role to make it happen, Nahavandian said.

He said the diversification of sources moved reliance away from a few suppliers to a large variety of trade partners and helped to secure that unilateral sanctions would not work.

Deputy governor of Iran's Central Bank, Ahmed Azizi, presented economic indicators a turnaround in Iran's balance of payments and fiscal improvement following the rescheduling of the country's debts over the past few years.

Having successfully met the challenge of normalizing relations with external creditors, he said that Iran was targeting a higher economic growth and making progress towards restoring external financial credibility.

The compression of imports had an impact on short-term growth but it has placed the economy in a good position to meet the medium economic and financial challenges, Azizi said.

He reserved one word of criticism of Britain for not resuming medium-term insurance cover for exporters, like France, Spain, Germany and Canada had done, suggesting it was politically motivated as it could not be justified economically.

Secretary General of Iran's High Council of Free Trade Zones, Morteza Alviri, briefed business delegates on the activities of Iran's special economic zones and the great potential they hold in locational advantage and proximity to local and regional markets.

He described hundreds of projects that were being implemented, saying that in less than three years, the number of companies registered had grown from 60 to about 1,000, of which about half are industrial firms.

Opening the conference, Iran's Charge d'Affaires in London, Gholamreza Ansari, said that the best way for security was through partnership and stressed Iran, more than any other country in the Persian Gulf, would benefit from regional stability.

His counterpart in Tehran, Jeffrey James, outlined business prospects and the potential of Iran in its pivotal geographical position, saying that the country's long term future looked "very rosy."

Director General of British Trade Promotion, Ray Mingay, said that U.K. firms had a lot of ground to make up in Iran compared with their former position, but was optimistic with exports up 11 percent in the first 8 months of this year.

Colin Ford of Mitsui Babcock Energy put into perspective the trends in Iranian business, regarding both the changing market and the decentralization of state controlled industries.

With Iran's preference on domestic industries and increase in local production, he suggested that foreign firms have to adjust to the new realities in Iran, saying that unlike the old days there were now no overall contracts.

His advise was that Iran's demands were more for specialist packages and his recommendation to business executives, including those that may be wavering, was to travel to Tehran to discuss prospects first-hand.



BEIJING, China (November 20): Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen (R) welcomes U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is accompanied by U.S. ambassador to China James Sasser (L), prior to a joint press conference at the Diaoyuai State Guest House.

(AFP PHOTO)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

U.S. ...

and politically to stop the Iranian nation from gaining military victory.

The Iraqi leaders who are now being shown as notorious persons committed numerous crimes including chemical bombardment of Halabja and air raids on civilian targets in Iranian cities, but, at the same time enjoyed the support of the Western block and the advocates of human rights, the Leader said.

Referring to the helplessness of the enemies in confronting the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic during the eight years of war, the Leader said the big powers stood behind Iraq, but, the Iranian nation achieved the greatest honor of history.

The Leader said the U.S. and Israel are the symbols of hostility, treason and ignorance in connection with the Islamic Revolution and the free nation of Iran.

Ayatollah Khamenei said that the fault the enemies find with the Iranian nation is that it is determined to live freely and independently, not to bow to arrogant and aggressive powers, decide its own destiny, defend the rights of nations and revive the enlightening teachings of Islam.

The Leader said the U.S. and Israel portray the strong points of Iranian nations as weak points. "Islam and Holy Qoran are against aggression, oppression and domination of dictatorial regimes over nations.

"That's why Iran is against Israel's usurpation of Palestinian lands and dismisses Israeli rule over Palestine. This explains the U.S. and Israeli hostility towards Iran."

Elsewhere in his address, the Leader said the U.S. statesmen have been under the satanic influence of the Zionists who are instigating them to be hostile to the Iranian nation, but to no avail.

The experience of the past 18 years proved that the U.S. could do no damn thing, Ayatollah Khamenei made it clear.

On Iran's diplomacy, the Leader said "We have never trampled on the interests of other nations, nor have we launched aggression on the territory of neighboring states. Instead the weak nations are enjoying our support and assistance."

The Leader said, "Regardless of the enemies' propaganda campaign, we have never posed a threat to the neighboring states in the Persian Gulf."

The Iranian nation supports justice, is against injustice and any kind of aggression and stands against any sort of bullying, the Leader said.

The Leader reminded the blessings of the Almighty and its support for the Iranian nation and said no one should doubt that any confrontation with the Iranian nation is doomed to fail.

(IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ARAB...

"We had hoped that Boutros-Ghali could have had a second term," Abdel Meguid said.

The United States was the only member of the 15 UN Security Council countries in New York Tuesday to vote against the 74-year-old Egyptian diplomat, who has steered the world body through the turbulence of the early years of the post-Cold War era.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CHINA...

core issue in U.S. China relations," Qian told journalists.

He recalled that joint communiques issued prior to Beijing and Washington's mutual recognition included a U.S. undertaking to gradually reduce arms sales to Taiwan.

"We will only be reassured when this promise is turned into reality," Qian said, adding that there was no plan to issue another communique on the subject.

Qian also once again denied accusations that China was helping countries such as Iran and Pakistan develop their nuclear programs, saying "China has not engaged in nuclear proliferation.

"China is ready to have a new dialogue on security and non proliferation on the basis of equality to discuss our mutual concern," he said, linking U.S. arms sales to Taiwan to American worries over Chinese nuclear cooperation with other countries.

Turning to trade issues, the foreign minister called on Washington to adopt "a flexible and practical attitude in the negotiations" for China's proposed entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) which has faced resistance from the United States.

Christopher, who arrived here late Tuesday for a three day visit to China, assured his hosts that the United States wanted "the best possible relationship" with China.

President (Bill) Clinton is committed to bolster the relationship over the next four years," the secretary of state, who last visited China in 1994, told Qian.

U.S.-Chinese relations have slumped over the past two years following a string of bilateral crises including trade and especially over Taiwan.

Clinton and the Chinese president are expected to meet Sunday on the fringes of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit in the Philippine capital Manila.

The United States dismissed a Chinese demand on Wednesday that it cut arms sales to rival Taiwan as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held talks with President Jiang Zemin and other leaders.

"China is most concerned about massive sales of advanced weapons to Taiwan," Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said at the start of his meeting with Christopher, who also met Jiang and Prime Minister Li Peng.

"The question of Taiwan is the core issue in U.S.-China relations," Qian told journalists.

Asked after the meeting with Qian whether Washington would agree to reduce arms sales to the nationalist island, a senior U.S. official with Christopher's delegation said: "Of course not."

(Contd from Pg. 1)

SYRIA...

1967 and annexed in 1981, as the cornerstone of any peace deal with the Zionist state.

However Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won May elections on a platform promising never to give up the Golan, and tension between the two countries has been high since Netanyahu took office.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

REPUBLICAN...

Specter, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, also visited the region and met with Assad and Netanyahu in August.

He said then that he thought "positions can be bridged" and that both sides want peace.

Talks between Israel and Syria have been stalled since last spring, and relations between the two countries have deteriorated since Netanyahu took office in June.

Syria demands the return of the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war.

(AP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

AMNESTY...

apparent victory by the Islamic Salvation Front. The party was then banned, which triggered the insurgency.

Sane urged the 15-nation European Union to put pressure on the Algiers government to end what he called "institutionalized torture," and to conduct rigorous investigations into charges of abuse by security forces. Europe also can give special treatment to Algerian asylum seekers, he said, "taking into consideration the reality of the Algerian situation."

(AP)

WEATHER

The Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 12°C Min. temp. 5°C

Partly cloudy

Warmest Point:
Ahwaz 29°C

Coldest Point:
Firouzkouh -10°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max °C	Cities	Max °C
Riyadh	26	Vienna	10
Istanbul	18	Moscow	6
Rome	14	Madrid	12
Athens	20	Abu Dhabi	27
London	7	Karachi	25
Paris	7	New Delhi	30
Frankfurt	7	Kuwait	26

Snow Brings Road Chaos to Britain, Cuts Power, 2 Dead

LONDON -- Britain was laboring Wednesday under the impact of blizzards and storms which blocked roads, disrupted ferry services and brought down power lines in some regions.

The worst affected areas were Scotland, the north of England and north Wales. Snow in Scotland was up to 20 centimeters (eight inches) deep in places.

Two motorists died on the snow-swept roads. A lorry driver lost control of his vehicle on the icy roads, while another driver was run down as he went to inform the emergency services of an accident.

On Wednesday morning, police and rescue services began clearing vehicles abandoned the previous night in the middle of the carriageway by motorists unable to continue their journey.

On routes across the Pennine Hills in the north of England, about 200 motorists were forced to spend the night in makeshift accommodation after finding themselves stranded in Tuesday night's blizzards. Some had to be led to safety by mountain rescue services.

Eight others spent the night in their vehicles before police reached them at dawn.

Many roads in Scotland and northern England remained closed Wednesday awaiting the arrival of snow-ploughs and tow-trucks to clear abandoned vehicles.

In North Wales, more than 4,500 households spent a night without electricity, and were still waiting for power to be restored Wednesday morning.

A ferry that left Holyhead in Wales for Dublin on Tuesday was forced to turn back, stranding the 175 passengers for 26 hours on the mountainous seas.

Elsewhere in Europe, a 40-year-old French truck driver was found dead Tuesday in the cab of his lorry on a motorway blocked by bad weather near Besancon in eastern France. Energy authorities in the region said 40,000 homes had been subject to power cuts of varying lengths due to the bad weather.

Meteorologists were predicting more snow for Wednesday, though temperatures were expected to rise somewhat. (AFP)

Former Indian PM Bids to End Congress Power Struggle

NEW DELHI -- India's embattled former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Wednesday called for a truce in the ongoing power struggle within the Congress (I) Party.

Rao, who quit as party president following corruption allegations but has refused to heed repeated calls from colleagues to quit as the congress parliamentary chief, said it was time for unity.

"The past must be forgotten since the unity of the party is essential now and the fresh unity bid is welcome," Rao told the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP).

Rao and new President Sitaram Kesri, who has called for the party to clean up its image after a series of scandals, are reportedly on a collision course but CPP Spokesman Suresh Kalmadi denied Wednesday that the two had fallen out.

He said there were no differences between Rao and Kesri during the one-hour meeting, attended by 140 members.

Rao was underfire within the party earlier this week, accused of being too supportive of India's current United Front Coalition government -- which Congress has refused to join but supports from the outside -- and its economic agenda.

But Rao said Wednesday he stood by the decision of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the think-tank of the party, to denounce the government's economic approach, adding, "There is no conflict between the CWC resolution and my recent statements on the question of the Congress support to the government."

Last month Rao was reported as saying that the United Front government economic policies were on the right path and there was no question of reviewing Congress support.

Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's coalition government would fall without Congress support. (AFP)

Tehran, Kazan to Boost Cooperation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Visiting Tatar President, Minitimer Shaimiyev, on Wednesday called for opening of Tatarstan trade office in Tehran as well as expansion of bilateral relations especially in oil, gas and petrochemical industries.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, the Tatar president also suggested for setting up a direct air link between Tehran and Kazan.

The president of the autonomous Republic of Tatarstan also expressed Tatarstan's willingness to send commercial attache to the Islamic Republic of Iran and demanded Foreign Ministry to do everything possible to broaden Tehran's cooperation with this Muslim-populated republic.

Minitimer invited Velayati to pay a visit to Tatarsan. The invitation was accepted by the Iranian Foreign Minister.

Referring to the historical and religious commonalities between the two nations Velayati expressed Tehran's readiness to expand ties with Kazan within the framework of a contract signed between Moscow-Kazan on their jurisdiction.

Referring to the good relations which exist between Tehran and Moscow, Velayati said that bilateral ties can be boosted and extended to trilateral Tehran-Kazan-Moscow ties.

Velayati welcomed the idea for promotion of bilateral cooperation in trade, oil, gas, petrochemical and tourism industries, as well as setting up of direct Kazan-Tehran air link and the opening of the Tatarstan trade office here.

Arafat Says No Progress on Al-Khalil

PARIS -- Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in Paris Wednesday there had been no progress in negotiations on Israeli troop redeployment from Al-Khalil.

Speaking after a meeting with French Prime Minister Alain Juppe, Arafat said "I am sorry to say that in spite of intensive talks, we have accomplished nothing."

Arafat, who is attending a meeting of donor countries to the autonomous Palestinian territories, said that the Israelis were unwilling to implement their commitments on Al-Khalil "accurately and honestly."

Under the autonomy agreements, Israel was to have withdrawn from four-fifths of Al-Khalil last March, but leaving a military force to provide security for the 400 Jewish settlers living there among 120,000 Palestinians.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is refusing to withdraw.

Earlier on Wednesday Arafat called for an urgent boost in investment to the autonomous territories, saying Israel's closure of the territories was crippling the Palestinian economy.

Speaking at a meeting of donor countries and organizations at the World Bank in Paris, he called for contributions to a $845 million investment program for 1997 for Gaza and the West Bank.

"Due to the closure (of the territories), we are losing $7 million a day ... our level of economic production has been cut by more than 50 percent," he lamented.

"Unemployment has reached 63 percent of the active population in the Gaza Strip in the last few months and 45 percent in the West Bank," he added, warning of the "very serious effects" of the Israeli closures.

He accused the Israelis of having reneged "by various means" on an Israeli-Palestinian economic accord signed in Paris two and a half years ago, before the arrival of the hardline Netanyahu government.

Detailing the investment program, agreed with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he said 54 percent was for infrastructure projects, 34 percent on social programs and 16 percent in the private sector.

The 845 million-dollar package for 1997 was part of a $1.32 billion investment program covering the period 1995-1998, he added. (AFP)

PGCC Head Briefs Bahraini Leaders on Shunned Meeting

MANAMA, Bahrain -- The Head of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council Wednesday briefed the Bahraini government on the outcome of a ministerial meeting it boycotted due to its long-running territorial dispute with Qatar.

PGCC Secretary General Jamil al-Hujeilan met with the Emir of Bahrain Sheik Isa bin Salman al-Khalifa, the prime minister and the foreign minister on the results of the two-day PGCC foreign ministers' meeting in Doha, Qatar.

The meeting was attended by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to set the agenda for the annual PGCC summit starting Dec. 7 in Qatar. Bahrain has said it will boycott the summit.

The ministers also discussed the Iraqi situation, the Mideast peace process and terrorism, but details of their talks were not disclosed.

The Bahrain-Qatar dispute involves a chain of islands, territorial water boundaries and the Zubara land strip in Qatar, where the Bahraini ruling family's ancestors lived 200 years ago.

Relations between the two countries have been strained since 1986, when Qatari forces seized 29 workers from a Dutch company sent by Bahrain to the disputed Fasht al-Dibal reef to build a coast guard station.

An official source quoted Wednesday by newspapers denied reports that Al-Hujeilan made his visit to Bahrain to convince the government to attend the PGCC summit. (AP)

Opposition Boycotts Court Case on Presidential Poll

YEREVAN -- The Armenian opposition on Wednesday announced that it was boycotting constitutional court hearings on the validity of the September presidential elections until the court made public its findings.

"We are suspending our participation in the case until the Constitutional Court submits the testimony of all of the electoral commissions," said Shavarsh Kocharian, speaking for Vazguen Manukian, leader of the main nationalist opposition party, at the court hearing Wednesday.

He said the opposition also wanted the court to make public how the military voted in the September 22 poll and to allow 60 witnesses to testify in the case.

The court, however, said it was going ahead with its hearings as it had to render its final decision by next Sunday.

"We have very little time left and we cannot suspend the hearings," presiding Judge Gaguik Arutunian said.

Both the opposition and international observers have challenged the validity of the results which saw Levon Ter-Petrossian reelected president with 51.75 percent of the vote in the first round.

Ter Petrossian was sworn in last week, but if the court declares the election result invalid, the speaker of Parliament would become acting president pending new elections. (AFP)

Int'l Gathering on Religion, Contemporary World to Open

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN- An international gathering titled "Religion and the Contemporary World", organized by the Secretariat of Inter-Religion Dialogue affiliated to the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization in collaboration with the World Church Council, will be held in Tehran Nov. 22-24.

The meeting will be attended by the Iranian Islamic scholars and religious minorities and Christian scholars from Switzerland, the U.S., Nigeria, France, Cyprus, Lebanon, Greece, Pakistan, Germany and Russian Federation. The visiting foreign scholars are members of the World Church Council with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The topics to be discussed at the conference will include Islam and Christianity in the Contemporary World, Role of Religion in Modern World, Religion and Man, Religion and Human Rights, Religion and Peace, Role of Religion in Peaceful Co-existence, Religion and Moral Problems in the Modern World, Religion and Economic and Social Justice and Religion and Social Justice.

WTO Agrees to Arbitration on Helms-Burton Law

GENEVA -- The World Trade Organization (WTO) agreed Wednesday to a request by the European Union for an arbitration panel to be set up to rule on a U.S. law which punishes foreign companies that do business in Cuba.

The WTO agreed to set up the panel following a second request by the European Union for a forum to settle disagreements which European governments have with Washington over the so-called Helms-Burton law.

But the United States hit back later Wednesday, stressing that the U.S. law was not a protectionist measure and thus should not fall under the remit of the World Trade Forum.

"The United States very much regrets that the (EU has) ... seen fit to move those differences one step further in the direction of a WTO panel," a statement by U.S. Ambassador Booth Gardner said.

"We do not believe that recourse to a WTO trade panel will lead to a resolution of this dispute," the statement said, adding that the disagreements over the Helms-Burton law were not a question of trade protectionism.

The law provides for banning from entry into the United States executives and their families from foreign companies found to be "trafficking" in confiscated property. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 2)

KHARRAZI...

by the tribunal, he stated that it is indispensable that all nations put in place all the measures required to enable this tribunal to fulfill its mission.

It is also essential that the UN, as the founder of the tribunal, and the Security Council in particular to adopt effective measures to persuade those states who are yet to obey the orders of the tribunal and, ensure that international justice prevails over the interests of a few states, he said.

"Let us ensure, by our action not by our words, that culprits will not be treated with impunity," Kharrazi concluded. (IRNA)

Boy Dies as Riot Rocks Juvenile Prison in Taiwan

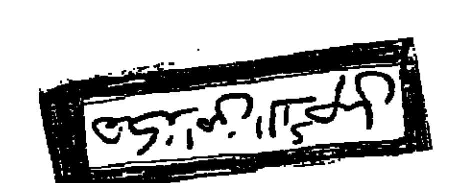
TAIPEI -- One boy died and several others were injured, in a Taiwanese Juvenile Prison Wednesday when a battle broke out between 600 armed police and rioting inmates, witnesses said.

The riot police, armed with tear gas, batons and shields, broke into a compound at a jail in Hsinchu, northern Taiwan and fought Juvenile inmates who had occupied a prison factory and staged an overnight riot against conditions.

Shouting "down with (justice minister) Liao Cheng-Hao," and "come back (former justice minister) Ma Ying-Jeou," the inmates set fire to books, blankets and clothes in their cells, witnesses said. Police fired at least 43 warning shots to try to scare the prisoners.

Police later used tear gas and water cannon to quell the disturbance, in the prison's Juvenile section, which lasted more than 24 hours, witnesses said.

Some 30 people were later arrested. Some 400 others were sent to prisons in central Taiwan after the rioting, police said. (AFP)



هكذا من الأصل

TEHRAN TIMES

international news

PAGE 16

NOVEMBER 21, 1996

Teenager Jailed for "Fishing" Chickens From Neighbors

CAIRO — A 16-year-old thief has been jailed for a year for "fishing" his neighbors' chickens, the government daily Al-Akhbar reported on Wednesday.

The teenager, a car mechanic, used a fishing rod and corn or broad beans as bait to catch the chickens in the rural town of Zaqaziq, north of Cairo, from the back yards and rooftops of neighbors' homes.

The boy sold the chicken at the market-place, the paper said. (AFP)

World's Biggest Bouquet Greets UAE President

ABU DHABI — The world's largest bouquet of flowers was prepared to welcome home United Arab Emirates President Zayed ibn Sultan al-Nahyan after surgery in the United States, state television said Tuesday.

The bouquet, shown on television, contained 300,000 flowers arranged in a pyramid structure 15 meters high and covered an area of 45 square meters.

According to the Guinness Book of Record, the previous largest bouquet was made in October 1993 near Paris, was 17 meters tall but contained only 60,000 dahlias. (AFP)

UN Says 100,000 Refugees Headed From Bukavu to Goma Border

NAIROBI, Kenya -- About 100,000 Rwandan refugees were moving north from the Zairian town of Bukavu to the border at Goma, where a half-million refugees have already crossed into Rwanda, a UN official said Wednesday.

The wave of returnees could hit Gisenyi, across from Goma, as early as Thursday, said UN World Food Program spokeswoman Michele Quintaglie.

She declined to reveal the source of the information, saying only that the agency had "strong indications" of a large movement of about 100,000 refugees from around the southern end of Lake Kivu headed north towards Goma.

Resisting moves to bring an international intervention force into the region to help repatriate remaining refugees, the Rwandan government has claimed no sizable groups of refugees were left in Zaire.

But the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has said it had verified there were still several hundred thousand refugees in Zaire.

About 600 refugees crossed from Bukavu into Rwanda on Tuesday. Also Tuesday, the UNHCR transported about 3,000-4,000 refugees across the border after they came out of hiding in a forest near the now-empty Mugunga camp just west of Goma.

UNHCR officials said they believed a significant number were still in the forest and said it was sending local trackers in to find stragglers. (AP)

Death Toll From Egypt Floods Rises to 12

CAIRO - The death toll from torrential rain and flooding which struck southern and eastern Egypt in the past week has climbed to 12 with the death of two children, police said Wednesday.

The children died in the southeastern village of Shalatin on Tuesday and several houses collapsed in flooding. The authorities set up a camp for the homeless in a school.

A toll provided by police on Tuesday said the bad weather had claimed 10 lives and left hundreds of people homeless.

Roads leading to Red Sea resorts such as Sharm el-Sheikh and Hurghada were cut and hotels closed with first-floor rooms flooded. Air traffic was crippled as rain water overflowed the tarmac and dumped mud and gravel on landing strips.

Hundreds of acres of land were destroyed in the southern provinces of Aswan, Sohag and Asyut. (AFP)

Oldest Astronaut Soars Into Orbit Aboard U.S. Shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (Reuter) -- The U.S. space shuttle Columbia roared off its Florida launch pad on Tuesday, rocketing NASA's oldest astronaut into the record books.

Columbia, the space agency's original shuttle, blasted off at 2:55 p.m. (1955 GMT), trailing a brilliant tongue of flame as it headed into cloud-dotted skies.

The shuttle's crew of five astronauts includes Story Musgrave, who, at 61, became the oldest person in space as Columbia headed toward the heavens. This is his sixth trip in orbit, matching the record held for 13 years by veteran U.S. astronaut and moon walker John Young.

You guys have a great mission and we'll see you back here in a little over two weeks, NASA launch director Jim Harrington told the crew minutes before liftoff.

Okay Jim, and if you would save us some leftovers from that turkey day dinner and we'll see you next month, Columbia skipper Ken Cockrell said.

The astronauts were to spend the Nov.28 U.S. Thanksgiving holiday in orbit because Columbia's launch was delayed 11 days by booster rocket problems and high winds.

The shuttle's countdown was halted briefly with just 31 seconds left on the clock, while engineers checked a possible fuel leak in the engine compartment.

The launch went ahead about 2-1/2 minutes later than planned and initially appeared to be flawless. But soon after reaching orbit one of three auxiliary power units, part of the shuttle's hydraulic system, overheated and had to be shut down. (Reuter)



VATICAN CITY, Italy (November 19): Cuban President Fidel Castro (R) shakes hands with Pope John Paul during their historical meeting at the Vatican. Pope John Paul accepted to visit Cuba next year and Castro said the pontiff would be treated like a king. (AFP PHOTO)

Thai Coalition Showing Signs of Conflict

BANGKOK — Thailand's would-be government coalition showed signs of cracks Wednesday amid a brewing struggle over who would control key economic ministries.

Conflicts over portfolios appeared imminent as Amnuay Virawan, the outgoing deputy premier charged by premier-apparent Chaowalit Yongchaiyudh with managing the economy, named controversial appointees to his five-man team.

While Amnuay has been seeking free rein over the economy, the leader of the second largest party in the coalition, Chatichai Choonhavan, is also seeking broad economic responsibilities in the new administration.

Amnuay told reporters on his return from an economic forum in Hong Kong that he would only join a Chaowalit government if the coalition agreed to support his economic plans and policies, and gave him freedom to implement them.

"For the conditions to be acceptable, I would have to be both deputy prime minister and finance minister. If not I will be unable to carry out my work," he said. (AFP)

Planes Collide at Runway Intersection

QUINCY, Illinois — A commuter plane coming in for a landing collided at a runway intersection with a small private plane that was trying to take off, igniting a fireball that killed all 14 people aboard both aircraft.

The planes collided Tuesday on runways that "intersect, actually cross," said David Smith, manager of Baldwin Municipal Airport.

The airport, which serves smaller planes, does not have a control tower. Pilots are expected to use an open frequency on their radios to communicate with each other.

The incoming plane was a United Express flight with 10 passengers and two crew members that had originated in Chicago and made a stop in Burlington, Iowa, before heading on to Quincy.

The commuter flight was operated by Great Lakes aviation, based in Bloomington, Minnesota. George Rasmusson, executive vice president of Great Lakes, contradicted earlier reports that the plane was carrying 11 people. (AP)

Supreme Court Takes Up Speaker's Writ Against Assembly's Dissolution

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's Supreme Court accepted a petition Wednesday, challenging the dissolution of the National Assembly filed by its speaker, after sacked Premier Benazir Bhutto's own legal moves were knocked back.

Speaker Yusuf Raza Gilani's petition will be heard on November 30, when the attorney general and the federation of Pakistan have been asked to submit their comments.

The court is yet to decide whether the petition is allowable under the law or not, court sources said.

Chief Justice Syed Sajjad Ali Shah, after a preliminary hearing of Gilani's petition ordered that a larger bench be constituted to hear the petition, the sources said.

Gilani, who remains speaker until the new assembly is installed, has challenged the president's dissolution order as unconstitutional, saying that the Lower House had been functioning smoothly. (AFP)

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (November 19): Opposition supporters gather outside the Belgrade electoral commission while statistics and election results for the Belgrade city hall are being announced here. According to latest results, Coalition together would have 60 seats, Socialists and Left Union 23, Radicals 15 and Democratic Party of Serbia 2 seats. The results from ten polling stations were annulled and a run-off scheduled for November 27. In the meantime, thousands of opposition supporters gathered in big cities throughout Serbia, dissatisfied with announcements cancelling results in the councils won by the opposition. (AFP PHOTO)

Two Soldiers Killed at Start of "Heroes' Week"

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — A land mine explosion in northern Sri Lanka killed two soldiers and injured four Wednesday as rebels began their annual week of commemorations for their war dead, military officials said.

The soldier's armored personnel carrier ran over the land mine in Kodikamam, about 300 kilometers (190 miles) north of Colombo, the capital.

In the past years the rebels have launched major attacks on military and civilian targets to mark their "heroes' week." The government strengthened security in the capital and other major towns Wednesday. (AP)

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS



DIAMANTE, ITALY - Six people belonging to the same family were shot dead overnight in the southern Italian town of Diamante, police said Wednesday, and the main suspect is a police officer.

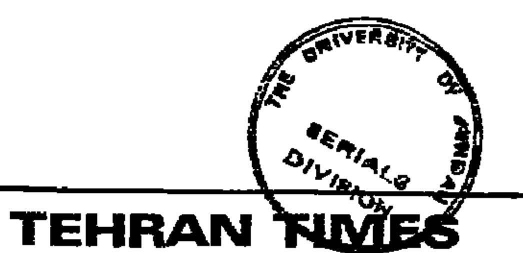
HOLYHEAD, Wales - Nearly 200 passengers on an Irish sea ferry forced to turn back in atrocious weather were brought ashore early Wednesday after spending 26 hours on the vessel.

LAHORE, Pakistan - A man drugged and killed seven people, including his wife and three children, in a southern Pakistani village after a family quarrel.

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia - A man convicted of killing a fellow Pakistani and two convicted Pakistani drug smugglers were beheaded Wednesday.

LUSAKA, Zambia - A coalition of the main independent monitors of Zambia's national elections declared Wednesday the polling was not free and fair.

TORONTO - Canadian Trade Minister Art Eggleton collapsed at a meeting on Tuesday and was taken to a hospital, but an official said later he was in good health and would leave later in the night for a conference in Manila.



TEHRAN TIMES

NOVEMBER 21, 1996

South's Exports Face Substantial Barriers

By Abdelaziz Megzari

According to the writer, the North's average tariff level for many of the South's agricultural products, even after the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, will continue to be much higher than the average post-Uruguay Round tariff rate in developed countries for all industrial products.

Geneva: The Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture (URAA) has brought the agriculture sector under comprehensive. multilateral disciplines for the first time. established an agreed standard base for future reductions. and put a limit on escalating costs of domestic support and export subsidies distorting the international market for agricultural products.

However. for several reasons, the degree of liberalization of trade in agricultural products actually achieved under the Round will be much lower than indicated by the mandatory 36% average reduction and the mandatory 15% minimum reduction.

For major products subject to tariffication, the way calculations were made for the base period, and the effect of exchange rate changes with regard to specific duties, will most likely result in ad valorem tariff equivalents by the year 2000 that will provide a level of protection approximately equal to the one that prevailed in 1994.

Even after mandatory reductions. normal tariff levels for many major products will remain prohibitive.

The way individual countries implemented the mandatory tariff reductions was to generally apply the largest percentage reductions to the lowest tariffs (with total elimination or 100% reduction for lowest tariffs) so as to be able to apply the 15% minimum to the highest tariffs protecting their 'sensitive' products.

Thus. although the average of reductions of each tariff rate has met the 36% mandatory level, the overall average tariff level in the agriculture sector was reduced by significantly less than this mandatory 36% in the major markets: in the EU from 26.2% to 17.7% (32.4% reduction). in Japan from 52.3% to 40.2% (23.1% reduction). and in the US from 11.3% to 7.9% (30.1% reduction).

The dynamic commodity sectors exhibiting the highest export growth rates during the past two decades and offering the best prospects for the future continue to be relatively highly protected in the major developed countries — e.g. fishery products. fruits and vegetables. including tropical fruits. cut flowers. tobacco. wine. etc. And within these sectors the most sensitive products continue to face high tariff peaks.

The average level of protection applied to agricultural products, after the implementation of the URAA, in each of the three major markets (17.7% in the EU, 40.2% in Japan and 7.9% in the US) will continue to be much above the average post-Uruguay Round rate in developed countries for all industrial products (3.8%).

In terms of the tariffication of all non-tariff barriers. the base period of 1986-88 chosen for calculation had the lowest world prices for agricultural products for several decades. This led to the difference between internally supported prices and world prices being the largest. The tariffs calculated thus were higher than if a more recent period had been selected.

Thus for many commodities, the tariffication resulted in tariffs so high, sometimes exceeding 200-300% of world prices. that they remain rather prohibitive. The following are examples of figures after full implementation of the URAA:

* In Japan 260% for durum wheat, 213% for barley. 208% for sugar and 419% for butter;
* In the EU 114% for durum wheat, 98% for rice. 147% for sugar, 103% for bovine meat, 114% for meat of sheep and lamb, 124% for butter. 74% for olive oil, 56% for fresh tomatoes and 169% for bananas; and
* In the USA, 123% for sugar. 82% for butter and 148% for groundnuts.

While the URAA provided for minimum market access commitments, and the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] secretariat has estimated these (in its 1994 report). most of the increases relate to temperate zone products. and in most cases to a minor percentage increase of world exports. often this is below 1% — the exceptions being for eggs. rice. some dairy products and meat.

Although the minimum access commitments were to be on an MFN [Most Favoured Nation] basis. countries were allowed to count special arrangements as part of their minimum access commitments and allocate their minimum access quotas to individual exporting countries having special arrangements with them. It is entirely possible that the quantities allowed under the minimum access quotas may not actually be imported. particularly in cases of quotas allowed for certain commodities by countries that are themselves low-cost producers and net exporters of these commodities.

If a formula aiming at tariff harmonization. similar to the Swiss formula for industrial tariff reductions in the Tokyo Round. had been adopted. the outcome would have been different — since the higher the tariff. the higher the percentage reduction required.

Under this. the overall average tariff level would have been reduced by 60% instead of 32% in the EU. by 77% instead of 23% in Japan. and by 65% instead of 30% in the US. The exceptional tariff peaks would have been ironed out. sometimes also resulting in a significant reduction of tariff escalation.

Such an approach could be usefully kept in mind for future negotiations.

The GATT secretariat's calculations (1994 December) comparing the final tariff average weighted by imports from all sources with the final tariff average for imports from developing countries showed that in respect of industrial products. the final post-Uruguay tariff average weighted by imports from developing countries was reduced by significantly less than that weighted by imports from all sources.

In the case of tropical fruits (products of particular export interest to the developing countries). although the value of world exports of tropical fruits — whether fresh, canned, dehydrated or dried or in juice form — accounted for only 11% of the total value of exports of temperate zone fruits in early 1990s ($2.5 billion for the former against $22.5 billion for the latter). the final results of the Uruguay Round did not meet the expectations of the Round — despite the negotiating principles and priorities outlined in the Punta del Este Declaration and the priorities set out in the 1989 mid-term review in respect of tropical fruits and nuts.

Tariffs will continue to be a significant barrier — particularly on major tropical fruits. While tariff escalation will be reduced, it will remain substantial.

Thus. while existing tariffs on unprocessed forms of most the less traded tropical fruits (guavas. mangoes. mangosteen. papayas. lychees. passion-fruit. starfruit, jackfruit and tamarind) were eliminated in the EU. for the most traded ones tariffs were only reduced from 9.0 to 5.8% for fresh pineapples. from 11.0 to 8.8% for kiwi fruits. from 8.0 to 4.0-5% for avocados. and from 16 to 12.8% for limes.

Moreover. all processed forms of all tropical fruits faced tariffs in the EU. although the levels of those tariffs were significantly reduced. often by half. The rate of duty on canned pineapples was reduced from 23.1 to 19.1%, and for pineapple juice from 19.7 to 15.8%.

In Japan, tariffs were reduced by half for several fresh fruits (from 10 to 5% for during, rambutan, passion-fruit, lychees and starfruit. from 6 to 3% for avocados. guavas, mangoes and mangosteen. and from 4 to 2% for papayas). But they were reduced by only 15% for fresh pineapples (from 20 to 17%) and by 20% for kiwi fruits (from 8 to 6.4%). The rates of duty were reduced on average for canned pineapples from 62.0 to 32.6%, and for pineapple juice from 38.0 to 24.4%.

In the USA, the 8.5% tariff on kiwi fruits will be eliminated, the tariff on papayas will be reduced from 8.5 to 5.4%, while the specific tariffs on the remaining fresh tropical fruits will be reduced by 15-20% (including pineapples avocados. guavas. mangoes and mangosteen). The specific rates of duty were reduced by 36.4% for canned pineapples and by 20% for pineapple juice.

In respect of reduction in export subsidies. Members were to include in their schedules commitments relating to ceilings both for quantity of subsidised exports and for budgetary outlays on these on a product-specific basis. By the year 2000. the developed countries were to reduce the quantity of subsidised exports from a 1986-90 base period by 21% and budgetary outlay by 36% (for developing countries 14 and 24% respectively). and all export subsidies must meet required reductions based on the 1986-90 level of subsidies. only the developed have the option to escape the front-loading reductions. This has resulted in several cases in levels of subsidies in the first years of implementation being higher than those of 1986-90.

Looking to the future. there are very substantial areas where international commodity trade liberalization efforts need to be pursued. This is particularly so for trade-distorting subsidies to domestic production and exports to the agricultural sector and tariff peaks and tariff escalation for semi-processed and processed commodities of actual or potential export interest to developing countries.

There is also a need to work towards the harmonization of national tariff schedules and simplification of tariffs. Attention should be paid in the future negotiations to replacement of specific duties by ad valorem duties which are more transparent and whose effect is much more predictable - since they are not influenced by exchange rate variations.

Attention should also be devoted to abolition of very low tariffs — which create unnecessary formalities and costly bureaucratic procedures for those who face them as well as for those beneficiaries of preferential duty free access. The cost for the latter of meeting rules of origin requirements is often higher than the benefits derived from the preferential duty free access offered by a 1-2% tariff.

There are a number of other access issues not addressed in the Uruguay Round — in particular private barriers to trade stemming from restrictive business practices, lack of access to technology on reasonable terms for developing countries. escalation for exporting developing countries of freight rates and market costs with the degree of processing before export, as well as excessive brand advertising.

(Third World Network Features)

India Prods South Asian Trading Partners

NEW DELHI — India urged its South Asian neighbours on Tuesday to join in an effort to catch up with powerful trading blocs in southeast Asia, Europe and North America by knocking down barriers to regional commerce.

The truth is that there is no time to lose and we have a lot of backlog to make up, Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda told business leaders from the seven member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Coöperation (SAARC).

We should draw lessons from other regional organizations in the world and see the dramatic progress they have achieved.

The SAARC members — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — took the first steps towards forming a trade bloc last year with the creation of the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA).

They pledged to form a free-trade zone by 2005. but the first steps have been faltering and trade within the region remains modest.

Trade between the seven SAARC countries accounts for only three percent of the nations' total trade. The region trades more than 10 times as much with member states of the European Union and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral told the three-day meeting of industry leaders from SAARC countries that regional trade was at a remarkably low level.

Salman Rahman, President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said cumulative economic gains in southeast Asia stemming from closer regional cooperation were expected to range from $200 billion to $300 billion by 2005.

We have to open up to the free flow of goods, capital, services and people, Gujral said.

Gujral said the lack of direct airline flights between some of the SAARC capitals epitomized an absence of cooperation.

He said telecommunications rates between SAARC countries should be brought down to domestic levels, and visa requirements should be eased to smooth business travel.

We are not using our resources optimally, he said.

Some 400 products are eligible for tariff concessions when traded between SAARC states. The list is expected to be expanded to 1,200 products before the end of the year.

Deve Gowda said SAPTA had got off to a modest start and needed to move towards the free movement of goods. investment, professionals and capital.

India will not be found wanting in this regard, he said.

Gujral urged conference delegates to adopt a common stand on two controversial issues being considered by the World Trade Organization (WTO) — child labour and the environment.

India opposes efforts by western states, which want curbs on child labour and stricter environmental laws in poor nations, to link trade benefits to labour and environmental policies.

In the last two years the WTO has created certain controversies. Many of these are not of a positive nature, Gujral said.

A WTO ministerial meeting is set for next month in Singapore.

(REUTER)

Unions Announce Strike During APEC Summit

MANILA, Philippines — About 200 unions will stage a one-day strike during next week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit to protest the arrest of a labor leader opposed to the 18-nation grouping, organizers said Tuesday.

The labor unions announced the strike plan one day before senior APEC officials were to begin a series of meetings in Manila leading up to the annual APEC Summit next Monday at Subic Bay. west of the capital.

The Philippine government has been trying to downplay opposition to APEC even as it beefs up security for officials from the APEC nations with a 26,000-member police and military force.

Several Philippine leftist groups oppose APEC's goal of free trade in the region, saying it will open up the economies of poor nations to competition from powerful multinational companies.

APEC has adopted a goal of eliminating all trade and investment barriers by the year 2010 for its developed members, such as Japan and the United States, and by 2020 for poorer countries, such as the Philippines and Papua New Guinea.

In a series of meetings this year, all APEC members have prepared voluntary plans for how they will reach those goals. Their leaders will review those plans when they meet next Monday.

The Philippines hopes that a successful staging of the meetings will focus international attention on the country and showcase it as an ideal investment destination.

Last week, agents from the presidential task force on intelligence and counter-intelligence arrested Felimon Lagman, chairman of Solidarity of Filipino Workers, a left-wing labor federation.

Solidarity leaders say Lagman was seized because of his opposition to APEC. but the government says he was arrested in connection with the murder of a police officer four years ago.

The Federation said that in arresting Lagman, the government of President Fidel Ramos was trying to "hide the ugly truth about the bad effects of APEC and globalization."

Leody de Guzman, secretary-general of the Federation, said 45 unions submitted notices Tuesday that they would strike next Monday.

Labor Secretary Leonardo Quisumbing said the government respects workers' right to strike as long as it is peaceful.

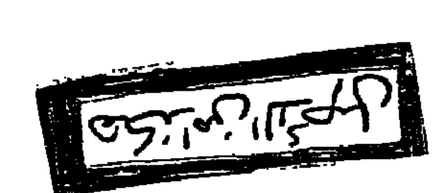
The affected companies include appliance maker Philacor, textile manufacturer solid mills and Republic Glass.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court ordered Defense Secretary Eenato de Villa to present Lagman to a lower court for a hearing Wednesday on whether his continued detention is justified.

Two other left-leaning groups also plan 'counter-conferences' during the APEC meetings.

All three groups are planning a protest caravan of thousands of vehicles from Manila to Subic, 80 kilometers (50 miles) to the west.

(AP)





Hanging out with style, a potto uses its tenacious grip to swing from a palm tree. A lower primate roughly the size of a rabbit, the nocturnal potto climbs upside down as readily as right side up, slinking along silently to avoid predators.

When facing an enemy, a potto will freeze or go into a defensive crouch, burying its head between its front legs, leaving only the thick, bristly back side of its neck exposed.

At first light the jungle comes alive with the plaintive cry of the great blue turaco (above). Nimble climbers and acrobatic feeders, these birds will often hang upside down to feed on fruit at the tip of a branch. In the air, though, turacos are far less graceful. In preparation for takeoff they sprint down a branch with their wings raised and tail feathers fanned, then throw themselves skyward before settling into an awkward glide. At touchdown great blue turacos sometimes crash into the forest floor, then scamper back to the canopy.



Living slower -- and much lower -- solitary hinged tortoises (below) eat mushrooms and are themselves fed on by Pygmies.

(Courtesy National Geographic)

Queen Elizabeth's Press Chief Resigns

LONDON -- Queen Elizabeth's chief press spokesman, Charles Anson, is resigning after overseeing a turbulent period for the British monarchy, according to a Reuter report.

Buckingham Palace said that Anson, 52, would be leaving in January after six years in the post to join Grand Metropolitan, one of Britain's largest food and drink conglomerates, as group corporate relations director.

Anson is to be replaced by the queen's assistant press secretary, Australian Geoffrey Crawford. Buckingham Palace said that with the queen's agreement, Crawford, 46, would return to Australia after a three-year term.

A palace spokeswoman said Anson had always intended to go back to business at some point.

This seemed to be an appropriate moment at the end of a busy period and before preparations for the queen's golden wedding anniversary year (1997), the spokeswoman told Reuters.

Anson took up his post in 1990 as the marriage of Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, and Princess Diana was turning publicly sour.

He was her spokesman in what the queen termed her annus horribilis (horrible year) -- 1992. That was when Charles and Diana separated and the marriage of Prince Andrew, the queen's second son, and Sarah Fergie Ferguson collapsed.

Anson has battled to preserve the public reputation of the monarchy at a time when respect for the royal family has plummeted and former colonies such as Australia and Canada have discussed the possibility of becoming republics.

Meanwhile according to an AP report from London the Duchess of York in a BBC television interview shown Sunday night blamed slimming drugs she took for four days at age 16 for causing her mental confusion for years afterwards.

The 37-year-old duchess said she only cleared the drugs from her body this year with a drink made of spinach, celery juices, asparagus and watercress, enabling her to find her true self.

The filmed interview with comedienne Ruby Wax is the latest in a round of public soul-baring in the United States and Britain on television, radio and in newspapers that began last week. It is aimed at promoting her autobiography *"My Story"*.

She told Ms. Wax she took the slimming drugs while in Argentina visiting her mother Susan, who quit the family when Sarah was 12, got divorced and married Argentinean polo player Hector Barrantes.

The duchess said she was surrounded by beautiful blonde women in Argentina and felt she was an unglamorous redhead. "One of my friends said to me: 'Look, try these new injections and these new slimming pills'," she said.

"I was only on them for about four days. But I can tell you now ... I feel that it certainly added a bit of fog and confusion to my mind... suddenly, I got changed into another person."

Ms. Wax asked: "Do you think one injection made you crazy?"

The duchess replied: "All I can tell you is, I got so angry with mum I nearly drew a knife on her... I think this is what we call toxins and I think that was what stayed in my system."

Her mother flushed the slimming drugs down the lavatory when she found out, she said. "I look back now and I think very, very strongly about this. I don't take away responsibility for my actions but I feel it certainly added to the confusion to my mind."

Earlier Sunday, in an interview in a weekly London newspaper, *Independent on Sunday*, she said her former lover John Bryan hit her and tore up her diary during their stormy relationship.

"(Bryan) tore up my diary and threw it around the room," the paper quoted her as saying, describing a scene in March 1995 after a dinner party at the home of the Duchess of Kingsbourne.

"I wouldn't let him look at it. He hit me. I had bruises all down my arms because I held them up to defend myself," she added.

The duchess, who is heavily in debt, and Andrew, the queen's second son, divorced in May after 10 years of marriage.

In her autobiography, the duchess said her worst moment in the royal household was in August 1992 when newspapers published sneak pictures of her and Bryan canoodling on vacation in France. Bryan is an American once described as her financial advisor.

In yet another report from Washington by AFP, the Duchess of York plugged her autobiography, *"My Story"*, on David Letterman's television show late Monday, saying that if she could go back in time she would not marry.

"I guess when I look back, I long to go back to that bride and say 'Perhaps there are a few things you could have done differently'," Sarah Ferguson said when asked if she regretted having married Britain's Prince Andrew.

Ferguson said she was on friendly terms with her ex royal husband, with whom she spoke before she traveled to the United States. "Ge said ... 'Good luck to you and give it your all'."

She also said she was keen on maintaining a good relationship with Queen Elizabeth II "as grandmother to my two girls."

Ferguson said she was enjoying her tour of the United States, above all because the local press was much friendlier than the British tabloids.

The welcome she was being afforded by Americans at book-signing events was also a treat, she added, recalling one person's enthusiasm on meeting her.

"Thank you for coming to our country," Ferguson said she was told, "and I said, 'Thank you for buying my book'."

Ferguson launched the U.S. leg of her book promotion tour in Chicago, Illinois on November 12.

(Dispatches)

Court Cracks Down on Polluting Taxis

NEW DELHI -- India's Supreme Court has told the authorities in the capital to replace its ageing fleet of taxis with Suzuki vans in a bid to contain pollution.

The judges told New Delhi's transport department to issue notices to the unions of the three and four-wheeler taxis and assist the court to reduce pollution by phasing them out.

The Indian capital, the fourth most polluted city in the world, is rated as an environmental hazard, with some 200,000 vehicles and several thousand factories adding 2,000 tons of pollutants to the air each day.

Studies show that vehicles are responsible for about two thirds of the pollution level, industry 12 percent, power generation 16 percent and domestic sources, including old-fashioned cooking stoves, about 7%.

Judges Kuldip Singh and Saghir Ahmed said in their order that the taxis should be replaced with Maruti Suzuki vans, manufactured by Maruti Udyog Ltd., in a joint venture with Suzuki Motor Corp.

"Let these owners (of three and four-wheelers) dump their old vehicles into the Yamuna River. It will make both them and the public happy," Singh said. "The Maruti vans will also accommodate passengers and reduce toxic emissions through their built-in catalytic convertors."

Maruti Udyog is India's largest passenger car manufacturer and has a market share of more than 75 percent.

"Maruti vans will also help considerably reduce the noise levels," Singh said. "The government should consider giving loans to the taxi owners to buy Maruti vans."

A recent World Bank study revealed that air pollution kills 7,500 people every year in New Delhi.

(AFP)

Baby Boy for Jemina and Imran Khan

LONDON -- Jemina Khan, wife of former Pakistan cricket hero Imran Khan, gave birth to a healthy boy on Sunday at the Portland Hospital, London, a spokesman for the family said.

Imran Khan and Jemina's mother, Lady Annabel Goldsmith, wife of the billionaire financier and politician Sir James Goldsmith, were present at the 5:34 p.m. (1734 GMT) birth.

The baby, whose name has not yet been announced, weighed about seven pounds (3.15 kilograms).

"A very healthy child was born," said the family spokesman. "It was a healthy pregnancy and birth. It was totally normal in every respect. The family are delighted."

Jemina Khan went into hospital on Saturday evening.

Her father, the billionaire financier and politician Sir James Goldsmith, visited soon after the birth, along with her brothers, Zaccaria and Benjamin.

(AFP)



THOUGHT

Eat to live, and not live to eat.
(Benjamin Franklin)

PRAYER

Noon 11:50
Evening 17:15
Dawn (tomorrow) 05:11
Sunrise (tomorrow) 06:48

Relieving Chronic Pain Without Drugs

Andrea Schmitt was 19 years old when she was injured in a car accident. Afterward she suffered from fibromyalgia, a condition characterized by widespread chronic pain in the neck, spine, shoulders and lower back. The pain was so severe that Schmitt had trouble sleeping, and she was forced to give up volleyball and bowling. She took muscle relaxants, painkillers and anti-inflammatory drugs; they brought no relief, but caused jitteriness and weight gain.

Finally, after 25 long years and at least eight doctors, Schmitt tried a totally different kind of treatment. A team of specialists at the Pain Evaluation and Treatment Institute at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center taught her stretching exercises for her damaged muscles, relaxation techniques and new pain-preventing ways to do her work.

Now she notes, "I feel so terrific, I often get up and ride my bike five miles before breakfast."

Chronic pain — which may spring from an injury or a progressive disease - is usually viewed as any pain that last longer than three months and often goes on for years. While potent drugs are often prescribed, they are not always the best way to relieve chronic pain. In one survey funded by a pharmaceutical company, 44% of people with mild to moderate chronic pain continued to suffer while taking pain medication.

Even when medicine does relieve pain, it may dull concentration and disrupt sleep. What is more, long term use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), which are sold over-the-counter or prescribed in stronger doses, can cause serious illness.

Today, many leading chronic-pain clinics are encouraging patients to cope with pain using drug-free therapies. Treatments once considerd offbeat, such as biofeedback and meditation, are being used at major medical centers in the United States, offering new hope to the ten to 30 percent of people across the country who suffer pain so debilitating it disrupts their lives. And, according to a study reported in the New England *Journal of Medicine*, 36 percent of people with back problems, 27 percent of headache sufferers and 26 percent of those with other chronic pain used a treatment that did not involve over-the-counter or prescription painkillers.

Once considered offbeat, therapies such as meditation are now being used at major medical centers in U.S.

"Modern medicine is a three-legged stool," says a Harvard professor and author of *Timeless Healing: The Power and Biology of Belief*. "Drugs and surgery are two legs. The third is what people can do for themselves."

His book offers great help and reveals his startling discovering in treating illness and pains.

Here is a rundown on some of the most promising drug-free treatments available today.

Biofeedback. Some people react to stress by tightening head and face muscles, which may result in tension headaches; others dilate and constrict blood vessels, which can cause migraines. Biofeedback usese electronic "feedback" (beeps and flashing lights from a machine) to teach patients how to control those physical processes.

Thermal biofeedback tells patients the skin temperature in their hands and is used mostly for migraines. Electromyographic biofeedback alerts patients to muscle strain and works especially well for tension headaches and for jaw, neck and shoulder pain. In one study, chronic headache sufferers who completed six to 20 biofeedback sessions reduced headache-related doctor visits by an average of 75 percent and their use of medications by 56 percent.

After Lynn Snead became director of a domestic-violence program in Pittsburgh, her stress level skyrocketed. Grinding her teeth in her sleep, she'd often wake up at 3 a.m. in agony. "My Jaw constantly ached," she says. She took as many as 60 acetaminophen and ibuprofen tablets a week to no avail.

Stretching exercises for damaged muscles, relaxation techniques and yoga techniques will relieve chronic pain.

Doctors finally determined that Snead suffered from temporomandibular disorder. Electrodes were taped to her jaw and then connected to a black box that measured muscle tension. The first day, the machine "fed back" her muscle-tension level by beeping almost constantly. No matter how much she consciously tried to relax her jaw, the machine kept beeping. She was taught to picture herself at the beach, which helped her relax her jaw more deeply. After about a month of practicing, she was able to stay relaxed most of the time, and her pain was almost gone. Now, two years later, Snead no longer needs the machine — or medication.

Mindfulness Meditation. Chronic-pain sufferers often tell themselves: "This will go on forever; I'm no good for anything anymore." Such thoughts can actually make their pain worse. Mindfulness meditation helps patients become aware of their thoughts and the effect of these thoughts on their lives.

"Our patients often describe a process we call 'uncoupling,' where they realize their thoughts and feelings about pain are different from the pain itself," says Dr. Saki Santorelli, associate director of the University of Massachusetts Stress Reduction Clinic. "Once they step back from pain as completely dominating their experience, they find they have resources to deal with it."

When Robert Hurd, 53, bent over to pick up a cereal box in the kitchen of his home in Ashburnham, Mass., he was seized by shooting pains and fell writhing to the floor. In the hospital later, Hurd learned he had a bulging disc.

During the next six months pain consumed Hurd's life. Potent pills made him groggy. Back surgery didn't help. In an attempt to reduce his back pain, Hurd took meditation classes he'd heard about at the University of Massachusetts Stress Reduction Clinic. Now every day for 40 minutes he lies down, relaxes and "observes" his thoughts. He's able to exercise vigorously six days a week and leads a full, active life.

Meditation isn't a substitute for standard medical treatment, but a complement to it. In one study, 72 percent of those who learned to meditate reported a 33-percent reduction in the intensity of pain they felt.

Riding your bicycle five miles or running for 10 minutes before breakfast can help prevent muscle pain during old age.

Life-style Chnages. Good pain-management programs teach people better ways to work and get a good night's sleep. "Lifestyle changes, such as learning how to lift properly or how to support your lower back with a rolled towel while driving, can put people back in control of their lives," says Dr. Dennis Turk, head of Pittsburgh's Pain Evaluation and Treatment Institute.

In a study reported in the journal *Pain*, chronic-pain sufferers were divided into two groups. The first entered a treatment program that included retraining in the performance of daily activities such as driving and lifting; the second received no training. Eleven months later both groups reported less pain, but those in the first group reduced their use of medication and increased their abilities to work.

When Andrea Schmitt first went to the University of Pittsburgh's pain clinic, she was amazed at how many habits she'd acquired that made her pain worse. An occupational therapist taught her better ways to approach daily activities. For example, instead of hunching over her computer, she now sits up straight. She rests her feet on a small stool, which takes pressure off her spine.

"Mini-breaks" throughout the day also help immensely. At least once an hour, Schmitt does stretching exercises to loosen her neck and shoulder muscles. In the evening she relaxes after dinner by reading or taking a walk. Once in bed, she settles down with a cervical pillow that supports her neck.

Embracing this less-driven pace has put schmitt back in charge of her life. "Now when I feel a painful 'attack' coming on, I know how to circumvent it," she says.

Exercise. People who have chronic pain "tend not to exercise and therefore lose muscle strength, endurance and flexibility," says Turk. Consequently, when they first start to exercise again, it may actually hurt. But over time, as the body becomes more conditioned, exercise will relieve chronic pain. In a study reported in the Annals of Internal Medicine, patients with arthritis in one or both knees were divided into two groups. Both received medication, but one group was put on a "fitness walking" program. After eight weeks, the exercisers could walk 18 percent farther than when they started, were using less medication and had less pain.

For years doctors told Penney Cowan of Rocklin, Calif., "If it hurts, don't do it." Since everything hurt — the 48-year-old suffered from severe fibromyalgia — she did virtually nothing. "I couldn't cook, clean or even hold my children on my lap," she says.

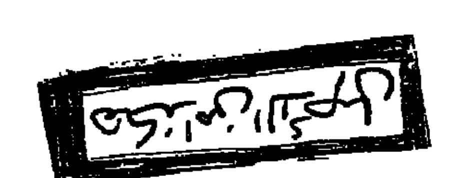
At a multidisciplinary pain clinic, doctors told her she had to stretch and lift five-pound weights to get better. When she went into the program she was so weakened by pain she literally couldn't lift a coffee cup. Then about three weeks later, she recalls, "I did the series of 18 stretching exercises they gave me, and I felt better." By the time she finished the seven-week program, she could lift ten pounds. Now, 17 years later, Cowan follows a pain-management program and she also gardens and plays badminton. "I must exercise to maintain my wellness," she says.

Chronic-pain sufferers should begin with gentle exercises: easy stretches, slow walking, leisurely swimming and light weight-lifting. Before starting any exercise program, get your doctor's approval.

Now patients can pin their hopes on new therapies such as yoga and meditation.

Acupuncture. Though it has been used in China to treat pain for thousands of years, acupuncture still makes many Western doctors uneasy. The treatment is based on the idea that needles inserted at specific points can correct a pain-producing imbalance in two bodily forces — the yin and the yang. Dr. Bruce Pomeranz, a University of Toronto neurophysiologist, has a more plausible explanation: acupuncture may stimulate the release of the body's own natural painkillers — endorphins — which act something like morphine. (To be Contd)





IN THE NAME OF ALLAH

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF IRAN

BLDG. NO. 5, BISIM, DR. ALI SHARIATI AVE.

TEHRAN-IRAN



TENDER NO. 75/33 (REPEATED)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF IRAN (TCI) INTENDS TO PURCHASE BY WAY OF AN INTERNATIONAL TENDER, TWO SETS OF STEAM ABSORPTION LIQUID ACCEPTING PROPOSALS IN RIALS OR FOREIGN CURRENCIES.

THE BIDDERS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TENDER MAY REFER TO THE SECRETARIAT OF PURCHASING AND CONTRACTS DEPT. (P&C DEPT.), ROOM 306, BUILDING NO. 5, DR. SHARIATI AVE. WITHIN OFFICE HOURS, AND SUBMIT BANK RECEIPT IN THE AMOUNT OF RLS.50,000 DEPOSITED TO THE ACCOUNT NO. 90018 WITH BANK MELLI IRAN, SHARIATI BRANCH AND COLLECT THE TENDER DOCUMENTS. THE BIDDERS ARE REQUESTED TO CONSIDER THE CONTENTS AND PREPARE THEIR OFFERS IN THE SEALED ENVELOPES AND HAND IT TO THE SECRETARIAT OF P&C DEPT. TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ADDRESS LATEST BY 14:00 ON DECEMBER 17, 96 AGAINST A RECEIPT.

DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR
FINANCE, PROCUREMENT & MANPOWER
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF IRAN

Clinton Learns About Australia's Sharks and Kangaroos



CLINTON

CANBERRA — U.S. President Bill Clinton learned some of the facts of Australian life Wednesday — there are sharks in Sydney Harbor and kangaroos on the golf courses.

Clinton went looking for kangaroos during a visit to government house here.

The hunt started in the residence's expansive gardens after he sipped tea and nibbled biscuits with Governor General Sir William Deane.

Clinton and Deane wandered around the gardens in search of a kangaroo.

"They're supposed to be all around here," Clinton told reporters.

"They told U.S. when we got here to look out on the golf course, there on the other side of the house. Maybe we should go around there."

But media said there were no signs of the animals which symbolize Australia.

Sharks surfaced when Clinton met Australian Prime Minister John Howard at the Parliament building and talk turned to a cruise the two are to take Wednesday night on Sydney's spectacular harbor.

Referring to the cruise, Clinton told reporters: "Did they tell you there were sharks in the water?"

"There really are," said Howard.

Though the U.S. leader, who started a five-day working and holiday visit to Australia Tuesday, may not see sharks in the harbor, he is scheduled to meet one on a golf course Thursday.

That's "the great white shark", otherwise known as Australian Greg Norman, the world number one with whom Clinton is to play.

(AFP)

Juppe Beats Unpopularity Record



JUPPE

PARIS — Alain Juppe is now the most unpopular French prime minister on record, an opinion poll showed.

According to the monthly BVA poll in the weekly *Paris-Match*, only 22 percent of the French public think Juppe is doing a good job, less than Edith Cresson's 23 percent recorded in the same poll in March 1982.

Worse for Juppe, his popularity rating of 51, the difference between the 22 percent for and the 73 percent against, is five points down on last month's 46, which was already a record.

Since political life resumed in September after the end of the summer holidays, every opinion poll has shown Juppe's popularity inexorably declining.

Poll organizers say that Juppe is being blamed for the almost complete absence of good news, economically or socially, on the horizon.

More ominously for the center-right government, BVA's political studies director said that the opposition Socialist Party was coming back into the picture.

In the poll for *Paris-Match* the socialists, who have kept a low profile since their leader Lionel Jospin's defeat by Jacques Chirac in presidential elections 18 months ago, were credited for the first time with more intentions of vote than the government.

Last week another poll, by CSA, indicated that the left would win an absolute majority in Parliament, while on Tuesday a BVA poll in the left-wing daily *Liberation* gave overhwelming support for the socialists' recently published program for beating the economic crisis.

(AFP)

Frederick Chiluba: From Bus Conductor to Zambian President



CHILUBA

LUSAKA — Frederick Chiluba, who stood poised for reelection as Zambian president, began his working life as a bus conductor but first made his mark in politics as a fiery trade union leader in the 1980s.

Officially Chiluba was born on April 30, 1943, at Wusakile in Zambia's Copper Belt but opponents have cast doubt on his origins, claiming he was born of Zairean parents.

The controversy assumed greater importance ahead of Monday's elections, since the incumbent's main rival, Zambian independence hero Kenneth Kaunda, was effectively barred from running on the basis of his Malawian parentage.

Kaunda, who was president from 1964 to 1991, once jailed Chiluba in 1981 after a spate of strikes.

Chiluba held a series of menial jobs in his early working life. After a stint as a bus conductor, he went to work on a sisal plantation in Tanzania. He returned in 1964, and was working in the Copper Belt region of Zambia when he began studying accounting on the side.

It was also during this period that he developed an interest in labor issues. He joined the powerful Zambia Congress of Trade Unions, rising steadily through the ranks to become chairman general, a post he held for 16 years.

Meanwhile his accounting credentials landed him work for a local company in the Copper Belt, then for the Swedish company Atlas Copco, moving up the ranks to credit manager, a position he held until 1990 when he entered politics.

(AFP)

Sihanouk Says He Has No Plans to Abdicate Throne

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — King Norodom Sihanouk says he has no plans to abdicate the throne, and if his health permits will remain monarch "until the year 2000."

He said he feared he would be blamed very severely if he abdicated and "there followed a notable deterioration in the situation of our country in which as constitutional king I am an essential stabilizing factor."

His comments, made in an interview released by the Royal Palace on Tuesday, were apparently a response to the concerns of Second Premier Hun Sen that the 74-year-old Sihanouk would step down from his throne to reenter politics.

Sihanouk wrote that he had "no intention, and no desire to exercise governmental or other power."



SIHANOUK

He first took the throne when he was 18 years old in 1941, when Cambodia was still a French protectorate. He held the position through independence in 1953, but abdicated in favor of his father in 1955 so he could serve as the country's political leader.

Ousted from power by a Republican coup in 1970, he was restored as monarch in 1993 after years in exile.

Under the constitution, he reigns but does not rule. But in practice, because of the faith he commands among many Cambodians, he plays an essential political role as conciliator among rival factions of the coalition government, in which his son Norodom Ranariddh serves as first premier.

Sihanouk suffers from a number of ailments including cancer — now in remission — diabetes, high blood pressure and arteriosclerosis. He flew earlier this month to Beijing, China, for medical care.

(AP)



MOSCOW, Russian Federation (November 15): Russian President Boris Yeltsin, recovering from a multiple heart bypass operation, takes tea with his wife Naina (R) and granddaughter Masha (L) in his private rooms at the Central Clinic Hospital. Yeltsin is set to leave the clinic near the end of the week and stay at a convalescence home in the western suburbs of Moscow.

(AFP PHOTO)

Angola Still Hovering Between Peace and War

LUANDA — Two years after a peace treaty ended two decades of civil war, persistent distrust between former foes in Angola casts doubt over the unity and stability of the country.

The government and UNITA rebels signed their accord in neighboring Zambia two years ago on Wednesday, but progress beyond a simple cessation of hostilities has been fitful and the general commitment to peace remains suspect.

This is Angola's second attempt. In 1992, rebel UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi rejected the results of elections and went back to war.

The implementation of the Lusaka Protocol has been so slow that at times it appears deliberate, which has cast doubts on the integrity of both sides to end the war, said one Western diplomat.

Nevertheless, Alioune Blondin Beye, special envoy of the United Nations which is overseeing the transition, believes Angola is closer to peace than to war.

No one can ignore what we have accomplished so far. Angola has never been as close to peace as at this moment, he told Reuters.

About 63,000 UNITA former rebels have been disarmed at UN administered assembly camps and 16,000 of them selected for inclusion with government troops in a unified national army.

UNITA is under threat of diplomatic and financial sanctions by the UN Security Council, over its heel-dragging.

The world body has given Angolan leaders a last chance to find lasting peace before the withdrawal of UN forces scheduled for February next year.

Analysts in Luanda said they believed the back of UNITA's military power had been broken, but the movement still had the capacity to return to guerrilla war.

UNITA does not have the capability to go back to (conventional) war as it did in 1992, but nothing stops it from going back to guerrilla-type war, one military analyst said.

But he added: Its foreign support and resources are dwindling, so one would be able to ask for how long it would be able to fight another guerrilla war.

UNITA clings to its strongholds in the central Huambo and Bie provinces. It is reluctant to take down military control posts and has forbidden UN demining teams to clear roads through the areas.

At Andulo, another base used by UNITA leader Savimbi, the movement insists that the UN give advance notice of air or road patrols and refuses to allow searches of planes from neighboring Zaire, its link to the outside world.

The government has also been slow to withdraw its forces and confine them to barracks in some areas, especially in diamond- rich Lunda Norte Province, where armed guards watch over mining interests — some official, others illicit.

The main political problem has been a pattern of stalling in the formation a unity government. Around 70 UNITA legislators have yet to join the MPLA majority in the Luanda Parliament.

The MPLA deputies have steamed ahead with their business regardless, passing constitutional amendments last week extending Parliament's life for another two to four years, until conditions are right for new elections.

A report by the UN's military chief in Angola, Phillip Sibanda, pointed a finger at the former rebels for not handing over all military equipment, a requirement of the Lusaka Peace Accord.

But aid agencies say proper demobilization of thousands of UNITA troops cannot be completed until the political questions are settled and people feel safe to return to their homes.

(Reuter)

Two Cypriot Political Parties Merge

NICOSIA — Two Greek-Cypriot political parties, the Free Democrats Movement (KED) of former President George Vassiliou and the Renewal Democratic Socialist Movement (ADISOK), have merged, the official CNA news agency said.

Vassiliou, who was president between 1988 and 1993, told a press conference the new party would be called the United Democrats and it would cover the left, right and center of the political spectrum, said CNA.

Vassiliou has been appointed temporary president of the party which will fight against corruption and nepotism, added the agency.

The Free Democrats took part in May elections for the first time, and won two seats, breaking into the political circles dominated by the four large parties — the conservative Disy of President Glafcos Clerides, the center-right Diko, the socialist Edek and the communist Akel.

(AFP)



TOSS Your TV

PCs Locked in Mortal Combat With TV

LAS VEGAS, Nevada – When Intel Corp. looks into the future of the computer industry, the world's leading microprocessor maker says it is clear: better graphics, or die.

At the opening of the Mega Comdex Convention here Monday, Intel chief executive Andy Grove was blunt and convinced that the computer industry's survival depends on dethroning televisions from their primary spot in consumer households.

To do that, personal computers must get more visual to lure away television viewers from their TV screens, said Intel Corp. chief executive Andy Grove.

"We are in competition for these consumers, for their dollars and their leisure time," he said in a speech to computer professionals. The five-day convention is the world's largest, drawing some 210,000 industry representatives *from around the globe.*

Globe warned that with the computer industry now so dependent on the general public, it must keep producing attractive, user- friendly products or lose customers.

While personal computers are like David to the boob tube's Goliath – TV sets outnumber PCs three to one – the power is shifting as more PCs are sold annually than televisions.

But, stressed grove, the battle is far from won and a key target is children.

Grove said computer makers and software designers must convince "our most advanced users, 10-year-old kids."

"They demand real-life visual experience" in their video games, he said, not the undetailed, flat images so prevalent today.

That is why computing in the next few years will become more visual, with three-dimensional images, much like what happened with video games in the early 1990s, he said.

"We have a long way to go before we win this war for eyeballs," he predicted. But, he added, "I am convinced we can do it."

The Intel chief recalled video's progress on PCs, noting that only four years ago, in 1992, the personal computer was capable of only delivering poorer-quality images on tiny monitor screens.

Technology has evolved to the point that PC images and sound now compare with movies: the first products with those advances will arrive in the market in early 1997.

Nathan Brookwood, an analyst at Dataquest, a computer market research group, agreed with Grove's trend forecast.

He said the technology of microprocessors – Comdex is celebrating the chip's 25th anniversary – and of internal PC architecture will allow such film-quality experiences by 2000, "as sure as a stone would fall *into the water.*"

Success with consumers also depends on software makers and their ability to create dependable, sophisticated programs, whether they be games or professional applications, he said.

Brookwood noted that Grove does not know who will be among the software industry's avant garde. "But you only need a few" to feed the entire industry, he pointed out, citing text and spreadsheet software that has supported the PC industry for a decade.

(AFP)

At Comdex, a Blitz of Microsoft-Based Palmtop Computers

LAS VEGAS, Nevada – Palmtop computers based on new technology *from Microsoft Corp.*, the world's leading software maker, popped up everywhere at the Comdex Computer Industry Convention here.

On the opening day of the five-day computer industry convention in Las Vegas, the largest of its kind in the world, a number of companies showed off their portable hand-held computers.

U.S. companies Compaq and Hewlett-Packard, Japan's Casio, Hitachi and NEC, South Korea's LG Electronics and the Netherlands' Philips, all demonstrated their version of the handy machines that range in cost between $500 to $700.

The palmtops are designed to be "mobile companions" to personal computers. Pocket-sized, they allow the user to carry around an electronic agenda, address book and word processing unit that also can communicate with the Internet.

This latest computer species, most of which will be available on the market in the 1997 first quarter, where developed around a Microsoft operating system named Windows CE (for consumer electronics) that was unveiled in mid-September.

The system manages the functions of a new generation of electronic devices capable of interfacing with the Internet.

Basking in the hoopla was Microsoft chief executive Bill Gates, who welcomed "the support and enthusiasm" the company has received from the computer and consumer electronics industries for Windows CE.

The Redmond, Washington-based company leveraged its strength in personal computing – different versions of its Windows software are used in more than 85 percent of the world's PCs – to tackle the needs of a handheld computer, a market that has stymied Sharp, Apple, Motorola and others.

The palmtops based on Microsoft technology are designed essentially to give portable access to personal computers, much more powerful but because of their bulky size, stationary.

If Microsoft succeeds with the palmtops, it wants to use Windows CE as a platform in a new generation of advanced alphanumeric pagers, multimedia playstations, digital video disk (DVD) players, TV set-top boxes and cellular telephones.

(AFP)

Automakers, Regulators Debate Air Bag Safety

WASHINGTON – Amid an intense debate over the dangers of automobile air bags, automakers have agreed to press for the use of slower-inflating devices to reduce the risk of injury or death to children or small adults.

The American Automobile Manufacturers Association, which represents the big three U.S. automakers, said the decision to slow the deployment speed of air-bags was endorsed Friday by the world's automakers at a meeting in Toronto.

Automakers and regulators are debating how to modify air bags, which have saved thousands of lives in frontal accidents but have been blamed in the deaths of several dozen children and small adults because of the method of deployment.

"The U.S. and international vehicle manufacturers attending the conference stated that there would be significant safety gains associated with depowering, particularly for children and smaller-statured adults," a statement from the automakers said.

"Depowering is the best short-term option available, but depowering alone will not eliminate all associated risks," the statement said, recalling recommendations for use of seat belts and placing of children in rear seats.

But government regulators, safety activists and automakers differ on what needs to be done to change air bags.

Consumer groups say the real solution is in speedier introduction of "smart" technology, including two-stage deployment with slower deployment at lower speeds. But this solution could be years away.

The big three U.S. automakers – General Motors, Ford and Chrysler – early this month urged the federal government to allow slower-inflating air bags to be installed in cars sold in the United States.

Such bags will soon be installed on vehicles sold in Canada where there are no regulatory restrictions on the devices.

But U.S. government regulators have expressed concern that slower-inflating air bags could fail to provide protection for adult males – those who get the most protection from current air bags.

Most air bags today work relatively simply. When a frontal crash begins, electromechanical sensors begin measuring crash severity. If *it's severe enough, the sensors* signal inflators to fill the front seats with harmless bags.

Deployment occurs at speeds up to 320 kilometers (200 miles) per hour – a force so strong an air bag can hurt those who are sitting too close to it. Children, but also short adults, can be especially affected because the bags can strike their heads.

Some consumer groups are meanwhile opposed to suggestions that air bags be equipped with manual *cut-off switches in* vehicles without back seats, arguing that improper use of the switches would expose the vast majority of passengers to potential harm.

Brian O'Neill, head of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, a safety group, said however hysteria over air bags should be avoided.

LG and Microsoft Develop World's Smallest PC

SEOUL – South Korea's LG Electronics Inc. said it had developed the world's smallest and lightest personal computer with Microsoft Corp. of the United States.

THE GP40M is 16.8 centimeters (6.7 inches) wide, 9.8cm (3.9 inches) long, 2.58cm (1.03 inches) thick and weighs only 340 grams (11.9 ounces), the company said in a statement.

The "hand-held" computers, which use Windows CE, a Microsoft operating system, has a two or four-megabyte memory capacity and can be used for wireless data communications as well as other ordinary functions.

LG plans to begin worldwide marketing of the tiny computer early next year at around $500. This should stoke the fierce rivalry with conventional notebook computers and desktops, a company spokesman said.

The company predicted sales of the GP40M, which cost LG $6 million to develop over the past two years, of between 700,000 and 800,000 units in the first three years.

The fledgling market for pocket computers, where Hewlett Packard, Casio, NEC and Philips are engaged, is expected to grow to 1.2 million units by 1998 and two million by 2000, it said. *(AFP)*

Russian Space Probe's Failure a Blow to U.S. Mars Program

WASHINGTON – The loss of Rus*sia's Mars-96 station comes as a* blow to NASA, which had two pieces of equipment on board the space probe that were to have provided data to help finish mapping Mars.

"It is a major loss," said NASA Spokesman *Douglas Isbell. But he* stressed it "will not change our plans" to pursue research and exploration of Mars.

A doomed Russian space probe carrying deadly plutonium plunged into the South Pacific on Monday after causing a scare that it would hit Australia.

U.S. President Bill Clinton telephoned Australian Prime Minister John Howard to warn that the crippled seven-ton spacecraft could crash in Australia.

Ministers huddled and emergency teams assembled during three *tense hours before news came that* debris from the probe had splashed down harmlessly about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) west of South America, near Chile's Easter Island.

"The probe contains four plutonium powered batteries. Each the size of an ordinary film canister containing approximately 200 grams of plutonium altogether," Howard told journalists.

But he stressed that the canisters were designed to withstand the heat of reentry and impact of a crash on land.

"Russian space authorities believe there is no danger of nuclear contamination," the White House said in a statement issued in Hawaii, where Clinton was vacationing.

The billion-dollar Mars-96 station was launched from the Baikonur Space Center in Kazakhstan on Saturday but failed to leave earth's orbit after the fourth stage of its rocket misfired.

The United States, which just launched its Mars Global Surveyor and soon will send up Mars Pathfinder, has stressed the complementary nature of the three probes, and the need to develop international missions, particularly with Russia.

Given the pair of U.S. experiments on board Mars-96, about 30 U.S. scientists were more or less in mourning Monday as the goal of sending men to Mars by about 2010 looked at least a bit more remote.

The U.S.' TEPC -- tissue-equivalent proportional counter – was to gauge cosmic rays between Earth and Mars to figure out what kind of protection would be needed on a manned mission.

The other piece of U.S. equipment lost, the Mars oxidation experiment was supposed to measure the speed of oxygenation in Mars' atmosphere and on the ground.

American Mars experts also were expecting a wealth of images that were supposed to be sent home by Mars-96. Mars Global Surveyor, the U.S. probe launched November 7, has two cameras with resolution of about 4.6 miles (7.5 km) and 6.5 to 9.5 feet (2-3 meters) for the other. The Russian probe's perspective would have fallen in between those of the two U.S. cameras.

The Mars mapping information that was expected was supposed to have helped pinpoint a landing site for future probes looking into the past or current presence of life on the red planet. *(AFP)*

Huntington's World



By Gwynne Dyer

Tehran Times Service

LONDON — If you believe the doctors, nothing is wholesome; if you believe the priests, nothing is moral; if you believe the soldiers, nothing is safe. And if you believe the director of the John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies, we are heading for a global clash of civilizations far more intractable than the old Cold War.

Professor Samuel P. Huntington, the Harvard-based academic who heads the Olin Institute, has an extensive fan club inside the Beltway. The Washington think tanks and government departments that once grew fat off the Cold War were desperately in need off a credible new threat when Huntington came along in the early 90s touting a forthcoming 'clash of civilizations'.

It was just what they needed as pressures for disarmament mounted: a closely argued, academically respectable prediction that 'the West', 'Islam', and 'East Asia' were heading into a long, difficult, and perhaps violent confrontation. So keep your guard up and your power dry. Give us lots of money, in other words.

Now Huntington has done it again. His new book, 'The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order', published this by military-industrial complexes everywhere, the U.S. joint chiefs of staff and the 'Beltway bandits'. If unbridgeable differences are what you need, he's got them.

Huntington's basic argument is that 'modernization' — i.e. industrialization, urbanization, mass education, mass media, etc. -- has different effects in different cultures. It has led to democracy and individualism in Western societies, but in cultures with other traditions it will produce very different results.

Huntington argue that Iran, for example, is somehow more representative of modern Islam than Turkey, a 'torn' country that made the terrible mistake of emulating Western models of modernization. "Throughout the Muslim world," Huntington writes approvingly, "people are reacting against the 'Westoxification' of their societies."

There is a great deal of special pleading in Huntington's choice of 'civilizations'. Twenty-first century India, for example, is likely to be at least as great an economic power as 21st-century China.

Huntington's great influence in Western political and military circles springs from the fact that he shares the market's basic prejudices. While making a great show of political correctness and cultural relativism, at bottom he completely accepts the notion (an article of faith in those circles) that modernization is synonymous with Westernization.

"The West," he writes, "believe that the non-Western peoples should commit themselves to the Western values of church and state, human rights, individualism, and the rule of law...but the dominant attitudes towards them in non-Western cultures range from skepticism to intense opposition."

Western values? Excuse me, Mr. Huntington, but just how many of those 'Western values' did Henry VIII of England believe in? Or Louis XIV of France?

The West, until it began to modernize, subscribed to values much more conservative and hierarchical than those currently advocated by Lee Kwan Yew. While Henry VIII, 300 years after Magna Carta, was the English-speaking world's closest approach to a Stalin.

What Huntington misses, with the arrogance typical of a certain caste of Westerner, is that the West was an absolutely typical pre-industrial society until it began to modernize. You can find individuals in the pre-modern history of every civilization who advocated free speech, human rights, and even democracy, but until modernization began they had no chance of winning.

Once modernization does get underway, however, their odds on success go up dramatically -- and it makes no difference where any stretch of the imagination, have no more trouble running free, democratic societies than Italy, Brazil and the Philippines. Which is to say that they have lots of trouble, but succeed nevertheless.

Modernization destroys the old hierarchies everywhere, and unleashes huge social changes everywhere. Many of those changes, and some are destructive. But there's nothing particularly 'Western' about the changes, except that the West was the first region of the world to go through them.

U.S. Blocks Boutros-Ghali's Reelection at the UN

UNITED NATIONS — The United States cast its veto to block the reelection of UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who garnered support from all 14 other members of the UN Security Council.

But a UN spokesman said Boutros-Ghali had no plans to withdraw his candidacy, setting the stage for more diplomatic wrangling over the leadership of the United Nations.

"What we need to do now is get on with the process," U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said after resorting to the veto power during a closed meeting of the Security Council.

"The United States has no candidate. We are waiting for the African countries to come forward with a list of viable candidates," she said.

The outcome of the vote pitting the United States against big powers Britain, China, France, Russia and 10 other countries confirmed that Washington stood alone in its crusade to dislodge the UN chief.

Boutros-Ghali "is gratified and really appreciates the overwhelming support shown by the member-states of the United Nations," UN spokesman Sylvana FOA said.

France and Egypt separately issued statements from their capitals expressing support for the 74-year-old Egyptian diplomat and noted that the United States had acted without the support of any other country.

While the U.S. veto does not technically force Boutros-Ghali to bow out of the race for the top post, it unofficially signals to candidates in the wings that they may step forward.

Aspirants to the prestigious post had refrained from waging open campaigns until the United States, which provides 25 percent of the UN budget, took formal steps to oppose Boutros-Ghali.

"We are very pleased with the vote," said Egyptian Ambassador Nabil Elaraby. "It proves that the whole world was behind Africa and behind the candidate that Africa chose, which is the current secretary-general."

In Tuesday's vote by secret ballot, Boutros-Ghali won support from Britain, France, China, Russia, Germany, Botswana, Chile, South Korea, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy and Poland.

But the resolution calling on the Security Council to endorse Boutros-Ghali was sponsored by 10 countries. South Korea, Poland, Italy and Britain refrained from that action.

African emissaries held a three-hour meeting following the U.S. veto and announced they would launch consultations on whether to present new candidates from Africa for the post.

The United States has warned that if African countries do not quickly draw up a list of candidates to replace Boutros-Ghali, a candidate from another region will be considered.

Among possible African candidates are the Ghanaian UN Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Kofi Annan, who is said to enjoy some U.S. support, Salim Ahmed Salim, the secretary-general of the Organization for African Unity and Graca Machel, a former Mozambican education minister and the widow of former President Samora Machel, according to diplomats.

The United States has also expressed interest in supporting a woman as its candidate for secretary-general at the United Nations.

European's Gro Harlem Brundtland, who retired last month as Norwegian prime minister and Irish President Mary Robinson have been tipped as possible successors as has the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, from Japan.

The U.S. veto capped a five-month drive by Washington to replace Boutros-Ghali with a candidate more palatable to President Bill Clinton's rivals in Congress, who are withholding payment of $1.5 billion in U.S. dues to the United Nations.

The Republicans in the U.S. Congress maintain that Boutros-Ghali has failed to reform the United Nations, which they charge is unresponsive to the challenges of the post-Cold War era.

In Canberra, where Clinton was traveling, White House spokeswoman Mary Ellen Glynn asserted that U.S. opposition to Boutros-Ghali was firm and that the veto was irreversible.

Boutros-Ghali, 74, became the first secretary-general in the 51-year history of the United Nations to be the target of a U.S. veto. His mandate expires on December 31.

(AFP)

China Defends Human Rights Record

BEIJING — China has issued a staunch defense of its human rights record, following a three-pronged attack at the United Nations by Australia, Canada and the United States.

"No one can deny China's achievements in the field of human rights," Chinese UN representative Zhang Fengkun was quoted as saying by the Xinhua news agency in a dispatch Wednesday from New York.

"Everyone is equal before the law, according to China's constitution," Zhang said, adding that anyone who violated the law would be tried "without exception."

China provoked an international outcry last month when it sentenced former student pro-democracy leader Wang Dan to 11 years in prison for plotting to overthrow the government.

Zhang stressed that China's judiciary was wholly independent of the government and would brook no interference in its affairs.

"People cannot but cast doubt about the motives of the so-called democratic countries that attack China on this issue," she said.

Responding to charges of human rights abuses in Tibet, Zhang argued that conditions had improved enormously since China "liberated" the Himalayan region in 1951.

"If this change is considered ... the purpose of those who advocate human rights is to condemn Tibetan people once again to the status of serfs," she said, adding that foreign countries were using the human rights issue as an excuse to interfere in China's internal affairs. (AFP)

Foreign Direct Investment Will Ease Migration

GENEVA — Workers from the developing world will continue to swarm to richer nations unless their governments enact policies attracting direct inward investment, according to a study.

"Economic migration is rooted in extreme poverty and living standard differentials between countries" and the push factors of emigration have grown since the 1980s, says the study by the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Recession and high unemployment in wealthier countries have pushed them to try and stem labor inflows, but the costs of doing so are high and the effectiveness of such efforts limited, the study on foreign direct investment, trade, aid and migration said.

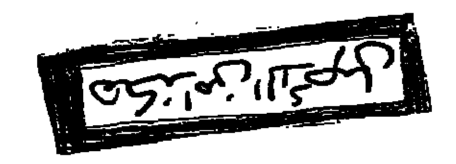
A better way to manage the problem is to "generate rapid economic growth in the countries of origin," which would in turn reduce migration.

Foreign direct investment sparks job creation, exports and overall economic development, said the study.

It "therefore generates a sense of hope among potential migrants for a better economic future in countries with insufficient capital but abundant labor."

The study recommends that governments undertake "migration audits" before making major policy decisions on trade, foreign direct investment and business development.

It also suggests they learn from the experience of countries that have made the transition from "net sending" to "net receiving" destinations. (AFP)



Imam Khomeini: Basijis Insure the Islamic Revolution's Success

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN- On the anniversary of the establishment of Basij (literally meaning mobilization) Forces, the Founder of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeini, delivered an important message to Iranians on November 23, 1988.

What follows is excerpts from the Imam's message:

"It is naive to think that the world-devourers, particularly the US and the Soviet Union, might stop their enmity towards us and the dear Islam", cautioned Imam Khomeini.

"The US and the USSR have an inborn enmity towards the genuine Islam of Mohammad (S)." said the Imam and urged Iranians to wear down the waves of sedition and stem the tide of pestilence.

"All people should be Basiji and should learn the required military techniques since only a country whose people enjoy combat readiness can repel threats", he said.

"Should the Basiji mentality prevail in a country, the malicious designs of world-devourers against that country will be thwarted."

Elsewhere, Imam Khomeini's message described the mobilization of university and theological students as the most important need of the time.

He said both university students and the students of theology must defend Islam, the Islamic revolution and the policy of "Neither East, nor West."

"The children of the revolution must prevent the US and Soviet Union agents from infiltrating universities and theological schools." warned Imam Khomeini.

"Basijis throughout the Muslim world should strive to establish a Universal Islamic government. This is possible since Basij is not confined to Islamic Iran alone. Resistance cells should be set up around the globe to stand against both the West and East." the Imam said.

Addressing himself to Iranian volunteer forces, the Imam said "Your backing of the officials will enable them to prove to the seekers of truth and honesty that they can attain a peaceful life and feedom without relying on the US or the USSR. Your presence in the revolution's arena will totally weed out anti-revolutionaries."

The leader of the Islamic Revolution once again cautioned that any negligence towards the proposed building of a 20-million strong army would mean falling a prey to the superpowers.

Imam Khomeini also said, "There are many revolutionary organs and groups (such as Basij) which insure the Islamic Revolution's success by means of their blood and martyrdom-seeking spirit. But the fact is no one except the Basijis deserve to be termed as symbols of devotion, purity, self-sacrifice and love for the Almighty."

Basij Crystallization of the Oppressed Hope

(Tehran Times Service)

This Week (Basij Week) is an effort to appreciate the services of Basij members all over Islamic Iran.

Imam A country with 20 million youth should have 20 million gunmen too.

It is very difficult to outline the achievements of Basij (public mobilization volunteers) and give an in-depth analysis of its functions in a brief account such as this. However, although this venture is not within the capability of anybody to do justice to the subject of the Basijis' perfect spirits and self-sacrifices, but it is our incumbent duty to try to further illustrate -- as much as we can -- the key role and outstanding services they have rendered to the Muslim *ummah* (nation) on the whole.

Basij was founded following a meeting in which few members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Commanding Council called on Imam Khomeini, the late Leader of the Revolution and Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the holy city of Qom in the year 1979. Imam Khomeini in this session called for a 20-million-strong army to be established and urgently organized. He said: "A country with 20 million youth, should have 20 million gunmen too", and added "Such a country is not vulnerable at all."

In another occasion he remarked: "It is incumbent upon you to undergo guerrilla and partisan training," The Imam was aware of the fact that the only way to preserve the continuity of the Revolution was to form a unified front of the oppressed. "Everybody must be a soldier in an Islamic state," said the Imam.

Knowing that the oppressed do not, generally speaking, have access to modern and complex weapons, we must develop a weapon much more effective than technical modern weaponry, i.e., the weapon of faith.



The Imam emphasized the importance of partisan and guerrilla warfare and this reminds us that colonial powers have never been and will never be ready to provide the oppressed nations with any real advanced, training or weaponry for fear of being used by the oppressed nations to gain freedom and independence. The colonical powers always demand slavery in return for their favors.

The Imam's message imparted the view that an irregular army shall rely on faith rather than weaponry and shall depend on autonomy rather than subordination. This concept is appropriately referred to by the Imam as victory of blood over the sword.

Owing to the provocative measures of the American fleet near Iran's territorial waters at that time, the decree surprisingly enough -- was interpreted as a political maneuver on the part of some observers in the world.

However, in spite of various shortcomings, logistically and the like, IRGC managed within its possible limits to begin with the training and organization of the public army.

According to the late Imam Khomeini, our basic issue is the war, and this saying is considered a motto for Basij. He thought of nothing except war and this fact has proven the equations of the global arrogance to be false and wrong.

Basij is so popular that while introducing themselves even the officials of the country say, "I am a simple Basiji."

In the aftermath of its foundation hundreds of thousands of volunteers registered for training. Thousands of public bases were set up along with the military garrisons to materialize the decree.

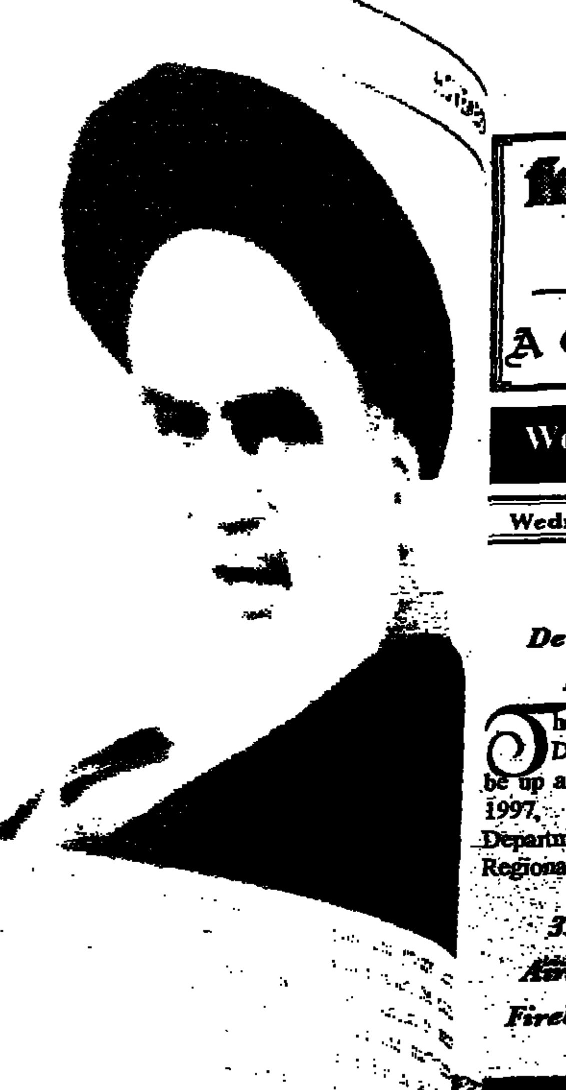
At the same time the mosques were used as military training centers -- as it was at the early time of the Prophet (S), and his successors.

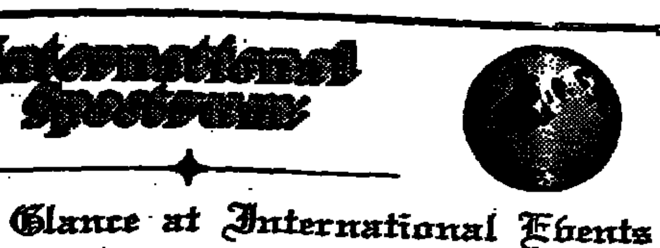
Following this, a bill was passed concerning legalization of this new army in Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) as a result of which the formation process was accelerated.

The time coincided with the inception of the conspiracies of the domestic grouplets and their external counterparts in the region. Surprisingly, neither of them could stand in front of this divine army.

Later, following the imposition of the war against the Islamic Iran, Basij played an instrumental role in changing the balance of the power in favor of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In collusion with the armed forces and IRGC they succeeded in liberating the bordertowns from the occupation of the Baathist enemy. Taking its roots from the main supporters of the Revolution, the oppressed, was and still is, the point that it powerfully resisted the Iraqi aggression for eight years.

(To be conted)





International Spectrum — A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU., NOV. 21; AZAR 1, 1375; RAJAB 9, 1417

Iran Spectrum — A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

World in Highlight

Wednesday, November 13

Middle East Development Bank Ready in 1997

The Middle East Development Bank should be up and running by the end of 1997, a senior U.S. State Department official told the Cairo Regional Economic Conference.

351 Killed When Airliners Collide in Fireball Outside New Delhi



In one of the deadliest mid-air collision in aviation history, the Saudi Airlines Boeing 747 jumbo, climbing after take off from New Delhi, the Indian capital, slammed into a Kazakh cargo plane coming into land killing 351 people.

Gasoline Storage Tanks Explode at the PEMEX Facility in New Mexico



Three gasoline storage tanks exploded at the PEMEX facility killing one of the 800 fire fighters engaged in putting out the inferno. Some 11,000 residents in the area were evacuated as precautionary measure.

Bhutto Appeals to Supreme Court over Dismissal, Leghari Expands Cabinet



Deposed Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto appealed to the Supreme Court against her sacking and described the dissolution of her government as illegal and unconstitutional in a 42-page appeal.

Thursday, November 14

Russian IFOR Stop Bosnian Muslims at Checkpoint

A group of Bosnian Muslims who demanded the right to return to the town in which they used to live before the war broke out in Bosnia in 1992, were stopped by Russian IFORs at the checkpoint outside the village of Gajevi in the Bosnian entity of Republika Srpska.

Al-Khalil Talks Bog Down Over 'Hot Pursuit'

Israeli's Supreme Court gave the internal security service Shin Beth permission to use 'heightened physical pressure to interrogate a Palestinian prisoner suspected of planning anti-Zionist attack and at the negotiation table with Palestinian Leader, Yasser Arafat, Israel demanded for broad 'hot pursuit' rights across the West Bank city which contributed to the bogging down of the negotiation fomenting further mistrust.

UN Chief Makes Impatient Plea to Save Zairean Refugees from 'Certain Death'

The UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali steered the attention of the World Food Summit on the refugees plight in eastern Zaire making an impassioned plea for the world to unite in emergency relief for the estimated million refugees facing starvation in Zaire.

Friday, November 15

Selection Committee Votes Tung Chee-Hwa in as Chief Executive of Hong Kong



Shipping magnate Tung Chee-Hwa outpolled his nearest rival, former Chief Justice Yang Ti-Lang 206-82 in the vote by the 400 members of the China-organized selection committee for the post-colonial Honk Kong. He is the man who is most likely to rule Hong Kong when it returns to Chinese sovereignty July 1, 1997.

'Women in Green' Protesting Against an Israeli Redeployment in Al-Khalil.

Demonstration held by the right wing group, 'Women in Green' and a dozen of other Jewish settlers protest Al-Khalil pullback outside Bibi Netanyahu's office, when Israeli cabinet held its regular cabinet meeting. Under the deal Israeli troops would leave 80 percent of the city of 130,000 Palestinians and 500 fortified Jewish settlement.

WTO Lambasts U.S. Sanctions Law

The U.S. has come under further pressure from its trading partners to abandon extraterritorial laws aimed at punishing foreign companies doing business with Cuba, Iran and Libya.

Saturday, November 16

Human Tide Pours Out of Zaire as UN Forces Prepares for Action

The ragged return of hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees from Zaire gathered pace from dawn while a UN-backed multi-nation force prepared to come to their aid.

Hike in Oil Price Forecast for 1997

With the world supply-demand balance continuing to look fairly tight, a leading oil analyst in London has upped its price forecast for benchmark Brent crude to average 20 dollars per barrel (dpb) for the first half of 1997.

Arab States Urged to Give Way to Private Sector

Arab governments should hand over public enterprises to the private sector to boost its role in the economy as part of reforms, a top Arab monetary official said.

Sunday, November 17

Police Arrest 4,000 Protestors at Miss World

Baton-wielding police arrested some 4,000 leftists after they tried to lay siege to a hotel housing 89 contestants of the Miss World pageant.

Romanians Vote for New President

Romanians voted in the second round of presidential elections in which challenger Emil Constantinescu was tipped to end the seven-year rule of Ion Iliescu.

Russian Mars Mission Ends in Failure

Russia's celebrated mission to mars failed early Sunday shortly after the rocket blasted off into space, the military space forces said.

Monday, November 18

Taleban Repulse Dostam Attack in Western Afghanistan



The Taleban militia has repulsed an attack by rival faction infantry forces in the western Afghan Province of Badghis. The Taleban's use of fast jeeps which revolutionized the Afghan battlefield, was a prime factor in their surprise capture of the Afghan capital Kabul on September 27.

Pope Receives Gorbachev in Vatican a Day Before Castro



Pope John Paul II and former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, recalling the old days, when they met at the dawn of the Cold War's demise.

Tuesday, November 19

Relief Force in Zaire

Military officials from Canada, the United States and about a dozen other nations will meet in Germany on Thursday to assess the rapidly changing need for a humanitarian relief force in Zaire, the Pentagon said.

Iran in Highlight

Wednesday, November 13

Iran, China to Expand Bilateral Ties

The visiting Chairman of Chinese National People's Congress, Qiao Shi told President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani that his country was prepared to boost cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in economic, commercial and technical fields. Referring to the historical relations between the two nations, he stressed that no country was capable of undermining friendly ties between Iran and China.

Ayatollah Seyed Morteza Pasandideh Passes Away



Ayatollah Seyed Hussein Mostafavi, known as Passandideh, elder brother of the late Imam Khomeini, Father of the Islamic Revolution and Founder of Islamic Republic of Iran passed away Tuesday November 12.

Thursday, November 14

German Ambassador Summoned to Foreign Ministry

German Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hurst Bachman was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and was notified of Tehran's strong protest against recent insults, baseless allegations and false report of the German Judiciary officials.

Iranian, Malaysian FMs Discuss Bilateral Ties

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in a meeting discussed Tehran-Kuala Lumpur bilateral, regional and international ties and their relations with the Muslim world

Friday, November 15

German Government Culpable for Chemical Warfare Against Iran

The substitute Friday Prayer leader of Tehran and Head of Judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, said that the German Judiciary authority dealing with the Mykonos case has politicized the judicial procedure because of the fact that the whole affair is being influenced by certain elements adding that the families of the martyrs have filed lawsuits with the Judiciary against the German government for its providing chemical equipment to the Iraqi regime in the course of its imposed war on Iran.

Saturday, November 16

President Receives Malaysian Foreign Minister



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received Malaysian Foreign Minister, Ahmed Badawi, who praised Iran's technical and economic developments.

German Court's Decision Politically Motivated

Head of the Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) Hojjatoleslam Mahmoud Mohammad Araqi, lashed out at a German Court for insulting Islamic sanctities and religious leaders,

Sunday, November 17

MPs Call For Reconsideration of Relations With Germany

Majlis representatives in a letter to the Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri asked the Foreign Ministry to submit on steps it has taken to review Tehran-Bonn ties. Thousands of university student demonstrators gathered in front of the German Embassy condemning the recent accusations made by the German Judiciary against Iranian officials.

Monday, November 18

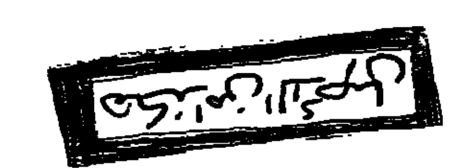
President Rafsanjani Praises Army Competence

At the graduation ceremony of cadets of martyr Satari Air Force Academy, President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani praised the caliber and self-reliance of the Armed Forces saying Iran has succeeded in resisting U.S. hegemony and that of the enemies.

Tuesday, November 19

International Communtiy Should Pay Urgent Attention to Afghan Issue

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif at the United Nations called on international community to pay particular attention to the unfolding human tragedy in Afghanistan.



Tell Me a Story, Mom!

Children grow fast and story-time is what memories are made of. Do indulge in it.

Nothing could be more true — be it a story of the native Red Riding Hood or the sly Puss in Boots or the handsome prince cursed to change into a frog by an evil enchantress. Closer home the wise Birbal and his ability to climb out of any sticky situations or the dramatic adventures of Bikram Betal from Chandamama — all weave their magic.

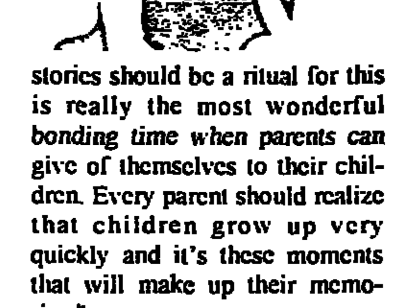


> *Deeper meaning resides in fairy tales told to me in childhood than in the truth that is taught to me in life...* — *Schiller*

Bedtime stories provide the close bonding between parents and children. After a whole day at school, home work and pressure to preform better, this nightly ritual is a special time together for everyone at home — a time to soothe, comfort, hold and caress children, tucking them in bed, narrating tales, answering questions. The child now is reassured he is loved.

The stories you tell can open up entire floodgates of imagination. It's this that gives him an impetus to fantasize, to think beyond the right answer, to wonder why and why not.

"Ideally," says Dr. V. Kshetrapal, a leading child psychiatrist in Delhi, "by the time the child is three years old, he should sleep in a separate room. Telling bedtime stories should be a ritual for this is really the most wonderful bonding time when parents can give of themselves to their children. Every parent should realize that children grow up very quickly and it's these moments that will make up their memories."



"Of all the fairy tales, I loved Jack and the Bean Stalk best," says 14-year-old Siddharth Karanbir, a student from class 11, Army Public School, Delhi. "What I loved most about it was that Jack could fool the giant over and over again. It made me want to be like him — brave, clever and adventurous."

> *Little Red Riding Hood was my first love. I felt, if I had married her, I should have known perfect bliss.* — *Charles Dickens*

Ravi Batra, 45, works as an executive with a travel house, Shangrilla. "My father used to tell me the story of Andocles and the Lion. Dad would tell this story with so much pomp and fanfare, roar like a lion, blow the trumpets and create the atmosphere for the final suspense, that it was great. I tell the same story to my kids, in the same way."

In his book Uses of Enchantment — the meaning and importance of fairy tales, Bruno Bettleheim writes that, "a good fairy tale should not only capture the child's attention and arouse his curiosity, but enrich his life, stimulate his imagination, help him develop his intellect and clarify his emotion. It should be attuned to his anxiety and aspiration; give full recognition to his difficulties, while at the same time suggest solutions to problems that disturb him."

"There is a very clear demarcation between the good and the bad in fairy tales," points out Dr. Kshetrapal. "Children learn to recognize the right or accepted behavior and the wrong or the unacceptable behavior, making it easier for them to 'label' and identify with the hero.

However, while narrating fairy tales, parents must guard against the mistake of allowing children to exist in just the make-believe world and ignore realities. At some stage the fairies and the princesses and angels must be identified with real life people as must the demons and the giants be given a shape in everyday reality. And perhaps in the light of day, the world of fairy tales must be used to drive home lessons in life to the child.

Always clarify the doubts a child has from any story and once in a while let him narrate the story just to see whether he has got it right and whether, more importantly, he is interpreting it right.

(Courtesy the Times of India)

Entertaining in Style

Baked Stuffed Trout

You will need	4 trout
	4 oz. breadcrumbs
	2 oz. butter.
	grated rind of ½ lemon
	juice of 1 lemon
Preparation time	salt and pepper
20 minutes	1 egg yolk
	3 oz. butter
Cooking time	1 oz. plain flour
30 minutes	little miik
	2 teaspoons capers
Oven setting	1 stuffed olive, sliced
350°F; gas mark 4	4 small tomatoes
	few sprigs parsley

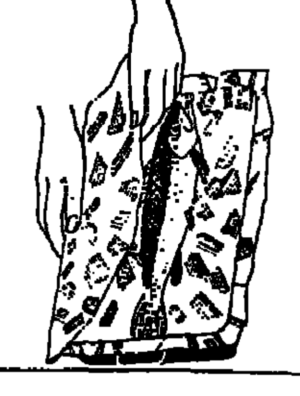
Gut the fish, remove fins, gills and eyes. Wash well. Make the stuffing: Mix the breadcrumbs, butter, lemon rind and half the juice, seasonings and egg yolk together. Beat well until smooth. Spread a quarter in each fish. Secure opening with cocktail sticks. Place in greased dish. Dot with 1 oz. butter, cover and cook in center of preheated oven for 30 minutes.

Make the sauce: Melt remaining butter, add flour, mix well and cook for 2-3 minutes. Pour liquor from fish. Make up to ½ pint with milk, gradually add to pan and bring to the boil, stirring until thickened. Add remaining lemon juice and capers. Cook for 2-3 minutes.

Arrange fish on large serving platter with a slice of olive in each eye socket. Garnish with tomatoes and parsley. *Serves 4.*

QUICK TIP

To keep the pan clean as well as retaining the fish odor, line the tin with foil. Cover with another piece and press edges together.



QUIZ

In What Way Do You Love Your Children?

Of course you love your children. But in what way? Indulgently? Possessively? Over-strictly? Selfishly?

The other day, head teacher L.A. Gibson had this to say about discipline in the home: "Parents must be kind, but strict. Children who are loved without being punished will end up in the juvenile court to be punished without being loved."

Whether you agree or not, it sometimes pays to analyze our feelings towards our children, to see that we love them for the right reasons -- and in the right way.

1. Assuming you welcome your children's return from school at the end of each day, are you pleased because:

(a) You're glad they're safely under your wings again?

(b) You've got them to yourself once again?

(c) You look forward to their help in the home again?

2. Which kind of tasks in the house or garden, are you most reluctant to give your children:

(a) The dirty, messy ones?

(b) The monotonous or boring ones?

(c) The responsible ones?

3. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" is admittedly a very old saying (it was first enunciated by Samuel Butler in the 17th century). Do you regard it as:

(a) Being rather harsh, but still containing a grain of truth?

(b) Old-fashioned and dangerous rot?

(c) *As true today as it has ever* been?

4. Which of these three qualities do you feel children need *most*:

(a) Kindness?

(b) Love?

(c) Understanding?

5. Which of these three qualities do you feel children need the *least*:

(a) Discipline?

(b) Independence?

(c) Guidance?

6. When serious domestic problems crop up that are hard to conceal, do you:

(a) Explain them frankly and seriously to your children in an effort to make them understand?

(b) Take the "why-worry-them-now-they'll-have-to-face-life-soon-enough-as-it-is" line?

(c) Expect some sacrifices or assistance from your children as a matter of course?

7. What form do your non-corporal punishments usually take:

(a) *Cutting down on favorite* pleasures -- TV, outings, visits to friends, etc.?

(b) Any form of "fines" -- cutting down of pocket money, extra chores that have to be done, and so on?

(c) None?

8. Do you ever talk to your children in a friendly, kindly, *down-to-earth way about such* aspects of life as honesty, ideals, standards, trust, faith...:

(a) Occasionally?

(b) Never?

(c) No, but you would, if they would only listen?

9. Do your children in disciplinary matters:

(a) Always know when you *mean business?*

(b) Usually go as far as you'll let them?

(c) More or less do what they like anyway?

10. Do your children *really* love you:

(a) Not sure?

(b) Yes, certainly?

(c) Respect, like, tolerate, *might* be better words?

The scoring:

1. (a) 9 (b) 7 (c) 4
2. (a) 8 (b) 6 (c) 5
3. (a) 9 (b) 2 (c) 3
4. (a) 8 (b) 10 (c) 7
5. (a) 1 (b) 7 (c) 5
6. (a) 8 (b) 6 (c) 2
7. (a) 9 (b) 6 (c) 0
8. (a) 10 (b) 0 (c) 3
9. (a) 9 (b) 6 (c) 2
10. (a) 4 (b) 10 (c) 1

What your score means:

Ten questions with a potential score of 10 points each: This means a top score of 100, but that presupposes perfect parents *and* perfect children. So the scoring is adjusted to make this the impossibility it must always be.

Over 80: You need have no fears whatever, about your role as a loving -- and a wise -- parent. Your children are indeed blessed.

Between 60 and 80: You do love your children in the right way, without being blind to their faults and their basic human need for some form of discipline. Any failures you do experience from time to time must be put down to impatience, intolerance, or just tiredness -- on both sides, perhaps!

Under 60: There is evidently a need to rethink your parental responsibilities, possibly to remove the element of selfishness or possessiveness in you that makes you regard your children as especially delightful personal belongings, instead of the trust and duty they really are to us.

(Courtesy the Asia Features)

NRWGDLPTOMKERSZTBJMPSQLRV4RHLPWNFRZNVGBPDMRKONRXTQJGP4CKMJRV

LOGIC..LOGIC..LOGIC

Shirley's parents said she could invite five of her friends to come to a fireworks party on Guy Fawkes night, and she asked each of them to bring along some extra fireworks and something to eat. Hazel, who is three years younger than her brother Mark, brought some Roman candles, while Jimmy brought some bangers and a packet of biscuits. Neil, the youngest of the five, brought some sparklers, but not the sausage rolls. The one who brought the rockets also brought some delicious toffee-apples. Given that Diana is older than Jimmy, and that she brought some peanuts with her, can you deduce the ages of the five friends Shirley invited and which fireworks and food they each brought?

AGE

Diana
Hazel
Jimmy
Mark
Neil
Biscuits
Crisps
Peanuts
Saus. rolls
Toffee apples
Bangers
Cath. wheels
Rockets
Roman can.
Sparklers

"Solution Next Thursday"

Feature

His Majesty the Potato



Presentation of potatoes to Louis XVI in 1773.

Tehran Times Service

Consumers had been shunning it, accusing it of being heavy and a carbohydrate, and therefore fattening. The earth clinging to its name reminded the French of their crude peasant roots too much for them to eat it without embarrassment.

The potato had lost its popularity. French consumption fell from 178 kg per person in 1925 to 40 in 1985.

It was no longer eaten except when transformed, urbanized and disguised in the form of frozen chips, savory crisps eaten out of the packet, and smooth, modern, instant mash, far from the jacket potato of the dark days of want.

Its transition from the kitchen to the factory was accepted as was the starch, alias dextrin, which could be used as a substitute for flour in the biscuit, cracker and cake industry, as a thickener and stabilizer in ice-cream and tinned or dried soups and sauces, as an excipient in the pharmaceuticals industry, as a stiffener in laundering and textiles, etc.

But, overtaken by giddiness from the height of its technological progress and its towerblocks, and looking back with nostalgia to its rural roots, today's consumers are rediscovering the charms and virtues of natural products and tradition. Stews are thus once more turning up in family meals and potato thrones on tables with all the glow of their country health.

Restaurants now make it a point to serve main dishes with fried potatoes, called "French fries," with potatoes and cookery cards updating old recipes, the most simple of which are not the least appreciated, for instance, jacket-potatoes salt-baked in a clay oven and flavored with thyme. Nutritionists are becoming involved and the very serious annual medical meetings at Bichat Hospital in Paris rehabilitate spuds, encouraging us to eat them every day as they have such a high content in vitamins, trace elements and amino salts.

There appear to be 1,600 varieties of potato of which only 122 are listed in the official catalogue.

In addition to the Dutch *Bintje*, which is the most widely grown, there are also many other varieties whose popularity depends on the country, with *Belle de Fontenay* in France, *King Edward's* in England, etc.

The potato owes its introduction in France to **Parmentier** whose perseverance won over the lack of belief and hostility of his compatriots.

In the 15th century, conquistadors had brought back not only gold, but also the potato from the Andes. Unfortunately, the species planted in Spain first of all was slightly slimy and tasted bitter, so it was not very edible.

Thanks to crossbreeding, the Germans succeeded in producing quite an edible variety and in Russia, the *kartoffel* became the basic foodstuff, reducing famine.

With France being a country of wheat, the French ate gruel, bread and pancakes, and fed their pigs on potatoes which popular belief accused of transmitting leprosy.

Parmentier was a pharmacist in the French army. In 1757, he was a prisoner of the Germans and was fed on potatoes.

He realized the merits of this carbohydrate and, on his return to France, he popularized it with the help of Louis XVI. The plant became the tuber of the court and the king wore a potato flower in his hat. Potato growing developed at the time of the empire and, with the Industrial Revolution, boiled spuds became the bread of the poor.

During the 1939-45 war, there was a lack of potatoes and Francis Fonge paid homage to them in a poem of exquisite consumption.

It begins thus: "Peeling a good quality boiled potato is a choice pleasure...." It was wartime. (Courtesy of *Weekend Independent*, July 21, 1995.)

Travelogue

Of Pinnacles and Glaciers



Icebergs.

Scientific research reveals that glaciers are the least polluted source of drinking water; they contain less toxic elements than any surface water, but have minerals that benefit people's health.

Glaciers came into existence during the Quaternary Period millions of years ago. Today, they are found from the South Pole to the North Pole, and even in mountains near the equator.

China boasts half of Asia's glaciers. Most of them are Alpine glaciers located in its western plateaus. Covering an area of 57,000 square kilometers, these glaciers are precious fresh water resources, and are the source of the country's two biggest rivers, the Changjiang and the Huanghe, and the Yarlung Zangbo River.

Usually, glaciers are formed in mountain ranges above the snowline, 5,000 meters above sea level, where the temperature is low and snow accumulates thickly. As snowfall continues year after year, the lower layers are compressed into hard, crystalline ice. Under the radiation of the sun, the snow on the surface melts and seeps into the lower layers and then freezes. The ice thickens each year until it finally begins to move downwards into a valley to form a glacier.

Scientific research reveals that glaciers are the least polluted source of drinking water; they contain less toxic elements than any surface water, but have minerals that benefit people's health. Today glaciation is believed to be a symbol of regional or global environmental change. Many glaciologists study and calculate environmental changes by observing the movement of glaciers and analyzing ice samples.

Typical Alpine glaciation can be seen in 8,800-meter-high Qomolangma Mountain, the tallest in the world. The Rongbuk Glacier on the northern slopes of Qomolangma is known throughout the world. It stretches 22.2 kilometers from the top of the mountain to Rongbuk Temple, which is the highest temple in the world. Scientists have been studying the unique landscape in the Rongbuk Glacier area since the 1960s.

Serac forests are unique to the glacier-melting areas in the northern slopes of the central section of the Himalayas and the Karakorum Mountains. Many visitors to the Rongbuk Glacier on Qomolangma Mountain, the Jiabula Glacier on Qowowuyag Mountain and the Boyekangjiale Glacier on Xixabangma Mountain have admired the seracs in the region.

Fascinating Facts

Feathered Fighter Pilots

Bill filled with a fat cicada, a European bee-eater has snared its meal in midair. Feathered fighter pilots, these birds can spot insects a hundred yards away and, like cruise missiles, follow their evasive maneuvers to the kill. Two dozen bee-eater species range from Europe and Africa to Asia and Australia. They are as gaudy as macaws; one species is called the rainbow bird.

But cicadas are easier prey than what bee-eaters tackle more often—bees, wasps, and ants. How do the birds avoid the stings and venom?

"When a bee-eater catches a venomous insect, it perches and hammers it on a branch to kill it," says Peter Wrege of Cornell University, who has long studied bee-eaters with colleague Stephen Emlen. "Then it shifts the insect around in its bill and squeezes the abdomen while scraping it against the branch. The stinger often comes out along with the venom. It's very elaborate behavior."

(Courtesy of the National Geographic, December 1993.)

Italy's Best Kept Secret

(Concluding portion of last week's travelogue)

Mountain pastures and ancient castles may be the Tyrolean face of the Alto Adige, but the Italian spirit shines in Merano, a charming old town on the River Passirio.

Merano is sub-tropical and is one of the largest and most famous of Italian Alpine resorts. Brilliantly colored flowers and shrubs bloom all year round. There are lovely walks through the many orchards and vineyards around the town and there is an attractive timelessness about the place. The promenade along by the river has an old-fashioned air, somewhat reminiscent of English seaside premenades in the 19th century. Brass bands or string quartets play to audiences who seem to have all day to just sit and listen. The pace of life is easy and slow.

The timeless quality is also evident in quiet side streets with their wooden-shuttered houses closed to the curious. Walls lit with shafts of brilliant light suddenly merge into narrow, dark tunnels. The light has a particularly haunting quality. It is a paradise for photographers.

Wherever you are in the Alto Adige, good food is easy to come by. Try specialties like speck, the local smoked ham which is often served as an appetizer, *knoedel*, stuffed ravioli. This is no place for those fighting the battle of the bulge.

Spring and early summer are the best times for walking in the Alto Adige. The valleys and Alpine meadows are teeming with flowers, fruit trees flutter with blossom and the weather's just fine for walking. In Autumn there is the additional enjoyment of visiting taverns and eating hot roast chestnuts. And in winter the skier will love the snow. The Alto Adige really does have it all. (Courtesy of the *Weekend Independent*, July 21, 1995.)

The Mail

Dear Sir,

As a member of Amnesty International I am deeply concerned about the escalation of violence and abuse of civilian population in the civil war in Afghanistan. Therefore, I would greatly appreciate the publication of the following appeal in your newspaper.

Amnesty International is concerned that the escalation in fighting in Afghanistan may lead to non-adherence to basic humanitarian standards by all sides to the conflict, and possible deliberate or indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population. Amnesty International (AI) would like to highlight that amongst the most vulnerable groups in the war are women and children. Women's rights have constantly been violated throughout the conflict by all parties and, in particular, the Talehan has singled itself out because of the extent and harshness of its treatment of women.

Amnesty International makes the following appeal to the armed factions:

1. Ensure that civilians are protected by

i. Adherence to basic humanitarian standards.

ii. No deliberate or indiscriminate attacks on civilians.

2. Women should not be treated as spoils of war, subjected orture.

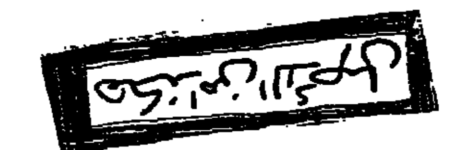
3. No beatings or ill-treatment of women defying orders which restrict their basic human rights.

4. No detention or other physical restriction of women solely on the basis of gender.

AI is calling on governments and the international community to use what influence they can to ensure that AI's appeal to the armed factions is acted upon.

In the hope of winning your agreement to publish this appeal I am.

Sincerely yours.
Eivor Stenang
Sweden



TODAY IN HISTORY

1975 - Vietnamese governments in Hanoi and Saigon agree on speedy merger as key to unification of nation under communist rule.

1971 - Estimated 3,000 people are believed to have perished in cyclone that strikes southeastern India, and entire villages are submerged by tidal waves.

1987 - Riot police stand guard to prevent violence by rival supporters as presidential candidates in South Korea trade charges of corruption and cruelty.

1989 - Session of British House of Commons is televised for first time.

1990 - President Bush joins 33 other leaders in closing Europe's first post-Cold War summit.

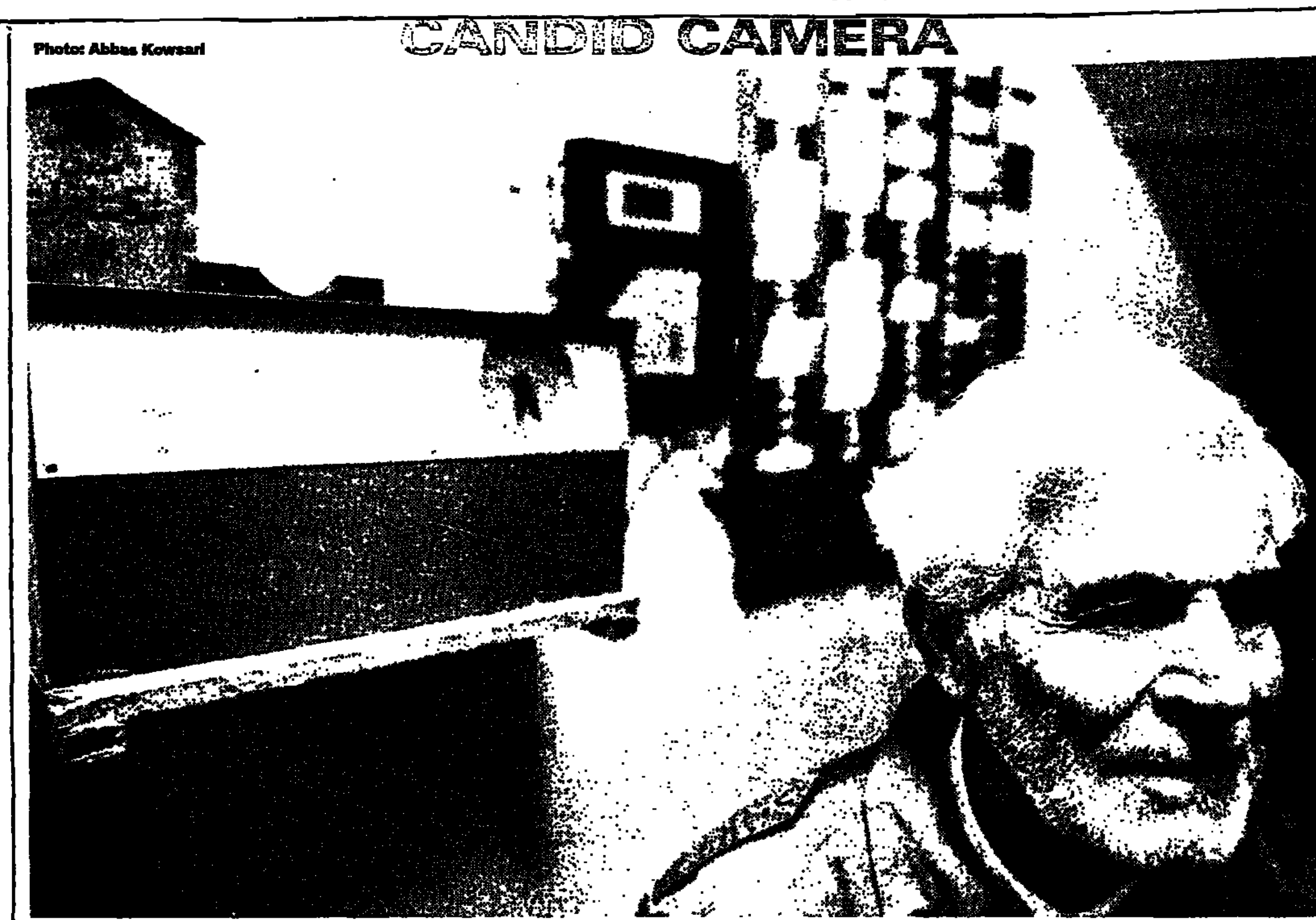
1991 - Korean news reports announce that South Korea is nuclear-free.

1992 - Queen Elizabeth II inspects the smouldering ruins at Windsor Castle as the government pledges to restore her home to its original splendor.

1993 - Labor unions in Nigeria call off their nationwide strike after the new military dictatorship agrees to slash fuel prices.

CANDID CAMERA

Photo: Abbas Kowsari



On the ocassion of the Day for Commemoration of the Retired and the birthday anniversary of Imam Mohammad Baqer (AS) the fifth Imam of the Infallible Household of the Prophet Mohammad (S), on November 13.

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1963 - U.S. President John F. Kennedy is assassinated as he rides in motorcade in Dallas, Texas.

1970 - Government of Guinea says it is under attack by mercenaries supported by Portugal.

1972 - U.S. President Richard M. Nixon lifts 22-year-old ban on American travel to China.

1974 - UN General Assembly gives Palestine Liberation Organization observer status.

1977 - Concorde, British and French supersonic airliner, begins service at New York's Kennedy International Airport after lengthy dispute over noise levels.

1987 - Authorities accuse Tamil rebels of attacking Indian troops in northern Sri Lanka in violation of 48-hour truce.

1988 - South African government announces it has joined Cuba and Angola in endorsing plan to remove Cuban troops from Angola.



My First Water Bird

Isaac Babel

Savitsky, Commander of the VI Division, rose when he saw me, and I wondered at the beauty of his giant's body. He rose, the purple of his riding breeches and the crimson of his little tilted cap and the decorations stuck on his chest cleaving the hut as a standard cleaves the sky. A smell of scent and the sickly sweet freshness of soap emanated from him. His long legs were like girls sheathed to the neck in shining riding boots.

He smiled at me, struck his riding whip on the table, and drew toward him an order that the Chief of Staff had just finished dictating. It was an order for Ivan Chesnokov to advance on Chugunov-Dobryvodka with the regiment entrusted to him, to make contact with the enemy and destroy the same.

"For which destruction," the Commander began to write, smearing the whole sheet, "I make this same Chesnokov entirely responsible, up to and including the supreme penalty, and will if necessary strike him down on the spot; which you, Chesnokov, who have been working with me at the front for some months now, cannot doubt."

The Commander signed the order with a flourish, tossed it to his orderlies and turned upon me gray eyes that danced with merriment.

I handed him a paper with my appointment to the Staff of the Division.

"Put it down in the Order of the Day," said the Commander. "Put him down for every satisfaction save the front one. Can you read and write?"

"Yes, I can read and write," I replied, envying the flower and iron of that youthfulness. "I graduated in law from St. Petersburg University."

"Oh, are you one of those grinds?" he laughed. "Specs on your nose, too! What a nasty little object! They've sent you along without making any enquiries; and this is a hot place for specs. Think you'll get on with us?"

"I'll get on all right," I answered, and went off to the village with the quartermaster to find a billet for the night.

The quartermaster carried my trunk on his shoulder. Before us stretched the village street. The dying sun, round and yellow as pumpkin, was giving up its roseate ghost to the skies.

We went up to a hut painted over with garlands. The quartermaster stopped, and said suddenly, with a guilty smile:

"Nuisance with specs. Can't do anything to stop it, either. Not a life for the brainy type here. But you go and mess up a lady, and a good lady too, and you'll have the boys patting you on the back."

He hesitated, my little trunk on his shoulder; then he came quite close to me, only to dart away again despairingly and run to the nearest yard. Cossacks were sitting there, shaving one another.

"Here, you soldiers," said the quartermaster, setting my little trunk down on the ground. "Comrade Savitsky's orders are that you're to take this chap in your billets, so no nonsense about it, because the chap's been through a lot in the learning line."

The quartermaster, purple in the face, left us without looking back. I raised my hand to my cap and saluted the Cossacks. A lad with long straight flaxen hair and the handsome face of the Ryazan Cossacks went over to my little trunk and tossed it out at the gate. Then he turned his back on me and with remarkable skill emitted a series of shameful noises.

"To your guns — number double-zero!" an older Cossack shouted at him, and burst out laughing. "Running fire!"

His guileless art exhausted, the lad made off. Then, crawling over the ground, I began to gather together the manuscript and tattered garments that had fallen out of the trunk. I gathered them up and carried them to the other end of the yard. Near the hut, on a brick stove, stood a cauldron in which pork was cooking. The steam that rose from it was like the far-off smoke of home in the village, and it mingled hunger with desperate loneliness in my head. Then I covered my little broken trunk with hay, turning it into a pillow, and lay down on the ground to read in *Pravda* Lenin's speech at the Second Congress of the Comintern. The sun fell upon me from behind the toothed hillocks, the Cossacks trod on my feet, the lad made fun of me untiringly, the beloved lines came toward me along a thorny path and could not reach me. Then I put aside the paper and went out to the landlady, who was spinning on the porch.

"Landlady," I said, "I've got to eat."

The old woman raised to me the diffused whites of her purblind eyes and lowered them again.

"Comrade," she said, after a pause, "what with all this going on, I want to go and hang myself."

"Christ! I muttered, and pushed the old woman in the chest with my fist. "You don't suppose I'm going to go into explanations with you, do you?"

And turning around I saw somebody's sword lying within reach. A severe-looking goose was waddling about the yard, inoffensively preening its feathers. I overtook it and pressed it to the ground. Its head cracked beneath my boot, cracked an emptied itself. The white neck lay stretched out in the dung, the wings twitched.

"Christ!" I said, digging into the goose with my sword. "Go and cook it for me, landlady."

Her blind eyes and glasses glistening, the old woman picked up the slaughtered bird, wrapped it in her apron, and started to bear it off toward the kitchen.

"Comrade," she said to me, after a while, "I want to go and hang myself." And she closed the door behind her.

The Cossacks in the yard were already sitting around their cauldron. They sat motionless, stiff as heathen priests at a sacrifice, and had not looked at the goose.

"The lad's all right," one of them said, winking and scooping up the cabbage soup with his spoon.

The Cossacks commenced their supper with all the elegance and restraint of peasant who respect one another. And I wiped the sword with sand, went out at the gate, and came in again, depressed. Already the moon hung above the yard like a cheap earring.

"Hey, you," suddenly said Surovkov, and older Cossack. "Sit down and feed with us till your goose is done."

He produced a spare spoon from his boot and handed it to me. We supped up the cabbage soup they had made, and ate the pork.

"What's in the newspaper?" asked the flaxen-haired lad, making room for me.

"Lenin writes in the paper," I said, pulling out *Pravda*. "Lenin writes that there's a shortage of everything."

And loudly, like a triumphant man hard of hearing, I read Lenin's speech out to the Cossacks.

Evening wrapped about me the quickening moisture of its twilight sheets; evening laid a mother's hand upon my burning forehead. I read on and rejoiced, spying out exultingly the secret curve of Lenin's straight line.

"Truth tickles everyone's nostrils," said Surovkov, when I had come to the end. "The question is, how's it to be pulled from the heap. But he goes and strikes at it straight off like a hen pecking at a grain!"

This remark about Lenin was made by Surovkov, platoon commander of the Staff Squadron; after which we lay down to sleep in the hayloft. We slept, all six of us, beneath a wooden roof that let in the stars, warming one another, our legs intermingled. I dreamed: and in my dreams saw women. But my heart, stained with bloodshed, grated and brimmed over.



ANIMAL CRACKERS





